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452

James Hagg





# QUEEN'S WAKE

AND OTHER POEMS,

BY THE AUTHOR OF  
"THE WINDS OF HEAVEN."



LONDON:

1844.

Printed and Sold by

JOHN WATKINS, 10, ST. MARK'S LANE.





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THE  
QUEEN'S WAKE,

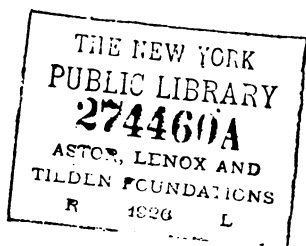
AND  
OTHER POEMS.

BY  
THE ETTRICK SHEPHERD.

BLACKIE AND SON:  
GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, AND LONDON.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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THE very favourable reception which has been given to the New Edition of the Tales and Sketches of the Ettrick Shepherd, has induced the Publishers, with the concurrence of the Shepherd's family, and at the urgent desire of many friends and admirers of the deceased Poet, to publish a uniform series of the Poetical Works, which shall comprise more especially those pieces which gained so great celebrity for the Author, and also the Lyrical and Miscellaneous Poems, which, though less generally known, are pregnant with all that richness of imagination and fervid feeling, characteristic of the Shepherd's writings.

The poetical writings of the Ettrick Shepherd have generally been considered his most successful productions. He, in common with other poets, seems to have felt the shackles of prose to be more irksome than those of verse; for whilst in his Tales and Sketches there are scenes of deep pathos, imaginings of great beauty, and a



general sprightliness and ease of expression, there are also evident indications of restraint on his imaginative powers. When he took full advantage of the poetic license, and suffered his kindling eye to glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven, then it was that he appeared in the full vigour of intellectual strength—himself a mountain spirit—waking the hills to melody, and clothing the sublimities of nature in a richly woven veil of fairy-land.

This Edition of the Poetical Works may be received as the Poet's legacy to his friends and admirers, since it will embody his latest alterations and corrections; and the accompaniment of a Life of the Author, by PROFESSOR WILSON, cannot fail to create a deep interest, since of all men he is the *one* to whom we should look for biographical reminiscences and characteristic sketches of the Poet. From him alone the British nation can expect a powerful delineation of the 'lights and shadows, the strange impulses and varied being of Kilmeny's Bard. The names of North and the Shepherd have grown together on our minds as familiar household words—the '*Noctes cænæque deorum*' have reared them a joint monument which the world will long admire; and this tribute of the living genius to the departed shade, must call forth feelings dear to Scotland and to man.

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# THE QUEEN'S WAKE.

VOL. I.

A



# THE QUEEN'S WAKE.

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## INTRODUCTION.

Now burst, ye Winter clouds that lower,  
Fling from your folds the piercing shower;  
Sing to the tower and leafless tree,  
Ye cold winds of adversity;  
Your blights, your chilling influence shed,  
On wareless heart, and houseless head,  
Your ruth or fury I disdain,  
I've found my Mountain Lyre again.

Come to my heart, my only stay!  
Companion of a happier day!  
Thou gift of Heaven, thou pledge of good,  
Harp of the mountain and the wood!  
I little thought, when first I tried  
Thy notes by lone Saint Mary's side,  
When in a deep untrodden den,  
I found thee in the bracken glen,  
I little thought that idle toy  
Should e'er become my only joy!

A maiden's youthful smiles had wove  
Around my heart the toils of love,  
When first thy magic wires I rung,  
And on the breeze thy numbers flung,  
The fervid tear played in mine eye;  
I trembled, wept, and wondered why.  
Sweet was the thrilling ecstasy:  
I know not if 'twas love or thee.

Weened not my heart, when youth had flown,  
Friendship would fade, or fortune frown;  
When pleasure, love, and mirth were past,  
That thou should'st prove my all at last!  
Jeered by conceit and lordly pride,  
I flung my soothing harp aside;  
With wayward fortune strove a while;  
Wrecked in a world of self and guile.  
Again I sought the bracken hill;  
Again sat musing by the rill;  
My wild sensations all were gone,  
And only thou wert left alone.  
Long hast thou in the moorland lain,  
Now welcome to my heart again!

The russet weed of mountain gray  
No more shall round thy border play;  
No more the brake-flowers, o'er thee piled,  
Shall mar thy tones and measures wild:  
Harp of the Forest, thou shalt be  
Fair as the bud on forest tree!  
Sweet be thy strains, as those that swell  
In Ettrick's green and fairy dell;

Soft as the breeze of falling even,  
And purer than the dews of heaven.

Of minstrel honours, now no more;  
Of bards who sung in days of yore;  
Of gallant chiefs, in courtly guise;  
Of ladies' smiles, of ladies' eyes;  
Of royal feast and obsequies;  
When Caledon, with look severe,  
Saw Beauty's hand her sceptre bear,—  
By cliff and haunted wild I'll sing,  
Responsive to thy dulcet string.

When wanes the circling year away,  
When scarcely smiles the doubtful day,  
Fair daughter of Dunedin, say,  
Hast thou not heard, at midnight deep,  
Soft music on thy slumbers creep?  
At such a time, if careless thrown  
Thy slender form on couch of down,  
Hast thou not felt, to nature true,  
The tear steal from thine eye so blue?  
If then thy guiltless bosom strove  
In blissful dreams of conscious love,  
And even shrunk from proffer bland  
Of lover's visionary hand,  
On such ecstatic dream when brake  
The music of the midnight Wake,  
Hast thou not weened thyself on high,  
List'ning to angels' melody,  
Scaped from a world of cares away,  
To dream of love and bliss for aye?



## THE QUEEN'S WAKE.

The dream dispelled, the music gone,  
Hast thou not, sighing, all alone,  
Proffered thy vows to Heaven, and then  
Blest the sweet Wake, and slept again?

Then list, ye maidens, to my lay,  
Though old the tale, and past the day ;  
Those Wakes, now played by minstrels poor.  
At midnight's darkest, chilldest hour,  
Those humble Wakes, now scorned by all,  
Were first begun in courtly hall,  
When royal MARY, blithe of mood,  
Kept holiday at Holyrood.

Scotland, involved in factious broils,  
Groaned deep beneath her woes and toils,  
And looked o'er meadow, dale and lea,  
For many a day her Queen to see ;  
Hoping that then her woes would cease,  
And all her valleys smile in peace.  
The Spring was past, the Summer gone ;  
Still vacant stood the Scottish throne :  
But scarce had Autumn's mellow hand  
Waved her rich banner o'er the land,  
When rang the shouts, from tower and tree,  
That Scotland's Queen was on the sea.  
Swift spread the news o'er down and dale,  
Swift as the lively autumn gale ;  
Away, away, it echoed still,  
O'er many a moor and Highland hill,  
Till rang each glen and verdant plain,  
From Cheviot to the northern main.

## THE QUEEN'S WAKE.

Each bard attuned the loyal lay,  
And for Dunedin hied away ;  
Each harp was strung in woodland bower,  
In praise of beauty's bonniest flower.  
The chiefs forsook their ladies fair ;  
The priest his beads and books of prayer ;  
The farmer left his harvest day,  
The shepherd all his flocks to stray ;  
The forester forsook the wood,  
And hasted on to Holyrood.

After a youth, by woes o'ercast,  
After a thousand sorrows past,  
The lovely Mary once again  
Set foot up on her native plain ;  
Kneeled on the pier with modest grace,  
And turned to heaven her beauteous face.  
'Twas then the caps in air were blended,  
A thousand thousand shouts ascended ;  
Shivered the breeze around the throng ;  
Gray barrier cliffs the peals prolong ;  
And every tongue gave thanks to Heaven,  
That Mary to their hopes was given.

Her comely form and graceful mien,  
Bespoke the Lady and the Queen ;  
The woes of one so fair and young,  
Moved every heart and every tongue.  
Driven from her home, a helpless child,  
To brave the winds and billows wild ;  
An exile bred in realms afar,  
*Amid commotion, broil, and war :*

In one short year her hopes all crossed,—  
A parent, husband, kingdom lost !  
And all ere eighteen years had shed  
Their honours o'er her royal head.  
For such a Queen, the Stuarts' heir,  
A Queen so courteous, young, and fair,  
Who would not every foe defy !  
Who would not stand ! who would not die !

Light on her airy steed she sprung,  
Around with golden tassels hung,  
No chieftain there rode half so free,  
Or half so light and gracefully.  
How sweet to see her ringlets pale  
Wide waving in the southland gale,  
Which through the broom-wood blossoms flew,  
To fan her cheeks of rosy hue !  
Whene'er it heaved her bosom's screen,  
What beauties in her form were seen !  
And when her courser's mane it swung,  
A thousand silver bells were rung.  
A sight so fair, on Scottish plain,  
A Scot shall never see again.

When Mary turned her wondering eyes  
On rocks that seemed to prop the skies ;  
On palace, park, and battled pile ;  
On lake, on river, sea, and isle ;  
O'er woods and meadows bathed in dew,  
To distant mountains wild and blue ;  
She thought the isle that gave her birth,  
The sweetest, wildest land on earth.

Slowly she ambled on her way  
Amid her lords and ladies gay.  
Priest, abbot, layman, all were there,  
And presbyter with look severe :  
'There rode the lords of France and Spain,  
Of England, Flanders, and Lorraine,  
While serried thousands round them stood,  
From shore of Leith to Holyrood.

Though Mary's heart was light as air  
To find a home so wild and fair ;  
To see a gathered nation by,  
And rays of joy from every eye ;  
Though frequent shouts the welkin broke,  
Though courtiers bowed and ladies spoke,  
An absent look they oft could trace  
Deep settled on her comely face.  
Was it the thought that all alone  
She must support a rocking throne ?  
That Caledonia's rugged land  
Might scorn a Lady's weak command,  
And the Red Lion's haughty eye  
Scowl at a maiden's feet to lie ?

No ; 'twas the notes of Scottish song,  
Soft pealing from the countless throng :  
So mellowed came the distant swell,  
That on her ravished ear it fell  
Like dew of heaven, at evening close,  
On forest flower or woodland rose.  
For Mary's heart, to nature true,  
The powers of song and music knew :

But all the choral measures bland,  
Of anthems sung in southern land,  
Appeared an useless pile of art,  
Unfit to sway or melt the heart,  
Compared with that which floated by,—  
Her simple native melody.

As she drew nigh the Abbey stile,  
She halted, reined, and bent the while :  
She heard the Caledonian lyre  
Pour forth its notes of Runic fire ;  
But scarcely caught the ravished Queen  
The minstrel's song that flowed between ;  
Entranced upon the strain she hung,  
'Twas thus the gray-haired minstrel sung.

### **The Song.**

“ O ! Lady dear, fair is thy noon,  
But man is like the inconstant moon :  
Last night she smiled o'er lawn and lea ;  
That moon will change, and so will he.

“ Thy time, dear Lady, 's a passing shower ;  
Thy beauty is but a fading flower ;  
Watch thy young bosom, and maiden eye,  
For the shower must fall, and the floweret die.”—

What ails my Queen ? said good Argyle,  
Why fades upon her cheek the smile ?  
Say, rears your steed too fierce and high ?  
Or sits your golden seat awry ?

Ah ! no, my Lord ! this noble steed,  
Of Rouen's calm and generous breed,  
Has borne me over hill and plain,  
Swift as the dun-deer of the Seine.  
But such a wild and simple lay,  
Poured from the harp of minstrel gray,  
My every sense away it stole,  
And swayed a while my raptured soul.  
O ! say, my Lord, (for you must know  
What strains along your valleys flow,  
And all the hoards of Highland lore,)  
Was ever song so sweet before ?—

Replied the Earl, as round he flung,—  
Feeble the strain that minstrel sung !  
My royal Dame, if once you heard  
The Scottish lay from Highland bard,  
Then might you say, in raptures meet,  
No song was ever half so sweet !

It nerves the arm of warrior wight  
To deeds of more than mortal might ;  
' Twill make the maid, in all her charms,  
Fall weeping in her lover's arms ;  
' Twill charm the mermaid from the deep ;  
Make mountain oaks to bend and weep ;  
Thrill every heart with horrors dire,  
And shape the breeze to forms of fire.

When poured from green-wood bower at even,  
' Twill draw the spirits down from heaven ;  
And all the fays that haunt the wood,  
To dance around in frantic mood,

And tune their mimic harps so boon  
 Beneath the cliff and midnight moon.  
 Ah ! yes, my Queen ! if once you heard  
 The Scottish lay from Highland bard,  
 Then might you say, in raptures meet,  
 No song was ever half so sweet.—

Queen Mary lighted in the court ;  
 Queen Mary joined the evening's sport ;  
 Yet, though at table all were seen  
 To wonder at her air and mien ;  
 Though courtiers fawned and ladies sung,  
 Still in her ear the accents rung,—  
*“ Watch thy young bosom, and maiden eye,  
 For the shower must fall, and the floweret die.”*  
 These words prophetic seemed to be  
 Foreboding wo and misery;  
 And much she wished to prove, ere long,  
 The wondrous powers of Scottish song

When next to ride the Queen was bound,  
 To view the city's ample round,  
 On high amid the gathered crowd,  
 A herald thus proclaimed aloud:—

“ Peace, peace to Scotland's wasted vales,  
 To her dark heaths and Highland dales ;  
 To her brave sons of warlike mood,  
 To all her daughters fair and good ;  
 Peace o'er her ruined vales shall pour,  
 Like beam of heaven behind the shower.  
 Let every harp and echo ring ;  
*Let maidens smile and poets sing ;*

For love and peace entwined shall sleep,  
Calm as the moon-beam on the deep ;  
By waving wood and wandering rill,  
On purple heath and Highland hill.

“ The soul of warrior stern to charm  
And bigotry and rage disarm,  
Our Queen commands, that every bard  
Due honours have, and high regard.  
If, to his song of rolling fire,  
He joined the Caledonian lyre,  
And skill in legendary lore,  
Still higher shall his honours soar.  
For all the arts beneath the heaven,  
That man has found, or God has given,  
None draws the soul so sweet away,  
As music's melting mystic lay ;  
Slight emblem of the bliss above,  
It soothes the spirit all to love.

“ To cherish this attractive art,  
To lull the passions, mend the heart,  
And break the moping zealot's chains,  
Hear what our love'y Queen ordains.

“ Each Caledonian bard must seek  
Her courtly halls on Christmas week.  
That then the Royal Wake may be  
Cheered by their thrilling minstrelsy.  
No ribaldry the Queen must hear,  
No song unmeet for maiden's ear,  
No *jest, nor adulation* bland,  
*But legends of our native land ;*



And he whom most the court regards,  
High be his honours and rewards.  
Let every Scottish bard give ear,  
Let every Scottish bard appear,  
He then before the court must stand,  
In native garb, with harp in hand.  
At home no minstrel dare to tarry .  
High the behest.—God save Queen Mary !”

Little recked they, that idle throng,  
Of music's power or minstrel's song ;  
But crowding their young Queen around,  
Whose stately courser pawed the ground,  
Her beauty more their wonder swayed,  
Than all the noisy herald said ;  
Judging the proffer all in sport,  
An idle whim of idle court.  
But many a bard preferred his prayer ;  
For many a Scottish bard was there.  
Quaked each fond heart with raptures strong,  
Each thought upon his harp and song ;  
And turning home without delay,  
Conned his wild strain by mountain gray.

Each glen was sought for tales of old,  
Of luckless love, of warrior bold,  
Of ravished maid, or stolen child  
By freakish fairy of the wild ;  
Of sheeted ghost, that had revealed  
Dark deeds of guilt, from man concealed ;  
Of boding dreams, of wandering spright,  
Of dead-lights glimmering through the night ;

Yea, every tale of ruth or weir,  
Could waken pity, love, or fear,  
Were decked anew, with anxious pain,  
And sung to native airs again.

Alas ! those lays of fire once more  
Are wrecked 'mid heaps of mouldering lore !  
And feeble he who dares presume  
That heavenly Wake-light to relume.  
But, grieved the legendary lay  
Should perish from our land for aye,  
While sings the lark above the wold,  
And all his flocks rest in the fold,  
Fondly he strikes, beside the pen,  
The harp of Yarrow's bracken glen.

December came ; his aspect stern  
Glared deadly o'er the mountain cairn ;  
A polar sheet was round him flung,  
And ice-spears at his girdle hung ;  
O'er frigid field, and drifted cone,  
He strode undaunted and alone ;  
Or, throned amid the Grampians gray,  
Kept thaws and suns of heaven at bay.

Not stern December's fierce control  
Could quench the flame of minstrel's soul :  
Little recked they, our bards of old,  
Of Autumn's showers, or Winter's cold.  
Sound slept they on the nighted hill,  
Lulled by the winds or babbling rill :  
Curtained *within the* Winter cloud ;  
*The heath their couch, the sky their shroud.*

Yet their's the strains that touch the heart,  
Bold, rapid, wild, and void of art.

Unlike the bards, whose milky lays  
Delight in these degenerate days :  
Their crystal spring, and heathen brown,  
Is changed to wine and couch of down ;  
Effeminate as lady gay,—  
Such as the bard, so is his lay !

But then was seen, from every vale,  
Through drifting snows and rattling hail,  
Each Caledonian minstrel true,  
Dressed in his plaid and bonnet blue,  
With harp across his shoulders slung,  
And music murmuring round his tongue,  
Forcing his way, in raptures high,  
To Holyrood his skill to try.

Ah ! when at home the songs they raised,  
When gaping rustics stood and gazed,  
Each bard believed, with ready will,  
Unmatched his song, unmatched his skill !  
But when the royal halls appeared,  
Each aspect changed, each bosom feared ;  
And when in court of Holyrood  
Filed harps and bards around him stood,  
His eye emitted cheerless ray,  
His hope, his spirit sunk away :  
There stood the minstrel, but his mind  
Seemed left in native glen behind.

Unknown to men of sordid heart,  
What joys the poet's hopes impart ;  
Unknown, how his high soul is torn  
By cold neglect, or canting scorn :  
That meteor torch of mental light  
A breath can quench, or kindle bright.  
Oft has that mind, which braved serene  
The shafts of poverty and pain,  
The Summer toil, the Winter blast,  
Fallen victim to a frown at last.  
Easy the boon he asks of thee ;  
O ! spare his heart in courtesy !

There rolled each bard his anxious eye,  
Or strode his adversary by ;  
No cause was there for names to scan,  
Each minstrel's plaid bespoke his clan ;  
And the blunt borderer's plain array—  
The bonnet broad and blanket gray.  
Bard sought of bard a look to steal ;  
Eyes measured each from head to heel.  
Much wonder rose, that men so famed,  
Men save with rapture never named,  
Looked only so,—they could not tell,—  
Like other men, and scarce so well.  
Though keen the blast, and long the way,  
When twilight closed that dubious day,  
When round the table all were set,  
Small heart had they to talk or eat ;  
Red look askance, blunt whisper low,  
Awkward remark, uncourtly bow,

Were all that past in that bright throng,  
That group of genuine sons of song.

One did the honours of the board,  
Who seemed a courtier or a lord:  
Strange his array and speech withal,  
Gael deemed him southern—southern, Gael.  
Courteous his mien, his accents weak,  
Lady in manner as in make;  
Yet round the board a whisper ran,  
That that same gay and simpering man  
A minstrel was, of wond'rous fame,  
Who from a distant region came,  
To bear the prize beyond the sea  
To the green shores of Italy.

The wine was served, and, sooth to say,  
Insensibly it stole away.  
Thrice did they drain the allotted store.  
And wondering skinkers dun for more;  
Which vanished swifter than the first,—  
Little weened they the poets' thirst.

Still as that ruddy juice they drained,  
The eyes were cleared, the speech regained;  
And latent sparks of fancy glowed,  
Till one abundant torrent flowed  
Of wit, of humour, social glee,  
Wild music, mirth, and revelry.

Just when a jest had thrilled the crowd,  
Just when the laugh was long and loud.

Entered a squire with summons smart ;—  
That was the knell that pierced the heart!—  
“ The Court awaits ;” he bowed—was gone,—  
Our bards sat changed to busts of stone.  
As ever ye heard the green-wood dell,  
On morn of June, one warbled swell,  
If burst the thunder from on high,  
How hushed the woodland melody :  
Even so our bards shrunk at the view  
Of what they wished, and what they knew.

Their numbers given, the lots were cast,  
To fix the names of first and last ;  
Then to the dazzling hall were led  
Poor minstrels less alive than dead.

There such a scene entranced the view,  
As heart of poet never knew.  
'Twas not the flash of golden gear,  
Nor blaze of silver chandelier ;  
Not Scotland's chiefs of noble air,  
Nor dazzling rows of ladies fair ;  
'Twas one enthroned the rest above,—  
Sure 'twas the Queen of grace and love !  
Taper the form, and fair the breast  
Yon radiant golden zones invest,  
Where the vexed rubies blench in death,  
Beneath yon lips and balmy breath,  
Coronal gems of every dye  
Look dim above yon beaming eye :  
Yon cheeks outvie the dawning's glow,  
Red shadowed on a wreath of snow.

Oft the rapt bard had thought alone,  
Of charms by mankind never known,  
Of virgins, pure as opening day,  
Or bosom of the flower of May ;  
Oft dreamed of beings free from stain,  
Of maidens of the emerald main,  
Of fairy dames in grove at even,  
Of angels in the walks of heaven :  
But, nor in earth, the sea, nor sky,  
In fairy dream, nor fancy's eye,  
Vision his soul had ever seen  
Like MARY STUART, Scotland's Queen.

# THE QUEEN'S WAKE.

## NIGHT THE FIRST.



HUSHED was the Court—the courtiers gazed—  
Each eye was bent, each soul amazed,  
To see that group of genuine worth,  
Those far-famed minstrels of the north.  
So motley wild their garments seemed ;  
Their eyes, where tints of madness gleamed,  
Fired with impatience every breast,  
And expectation stood confest.

Short was the pause ; the stranger youth,  
The gaudy minstrel of the south,  
Whose glossy eye and lady form  
Had never braved the northern storm,  
Stepped lightly forth,—kneeled three times low,—  
And then, with many a smile and bow,  
Mounted the form amid the ring,  
And rung his harp's responsive string.  
Though true the chords, and mellow-toned,  
Long, *long he twisted*, long he conned ;



Well pleased to hear his name they knew ;  
 "'Tis Rizzio !" round in whispers flew.

Valet with Parma's knight he came,  
 An angler in the tides of fame ;  
 And oft had tried, with anxious pain,  
 Respect of Scotland's Queen to gain.  
 Too well his eye, with searching art,  
 Perceived her fond, her wareless heart ;  
 And, though unskilled in Scottish song,  
 Her notice he had wooed so long,  
 With pain by night, and care by day.  
 He framed this fervid, flowery lay.—

### Malcolm of Lorn.

#### THE FIRST BARD'S SONG.

Came ye by Ora's verdant steep,  
 That smiles the restless ocean over ?  
 Heard ye a suffering maiden weep ?  
 Heard ye her name a faithful lover ?  
 Saw ye an aged matron stand  
 O'er yon green grave above the strand,  
 Bent like the trunk of withered tree,  
 Or yon old thorn that sips the sea ;  
 Fixed her dim eye, her face as pale  
 As the mists that o'er her flew ?  
 Her joy is fled like the flower of the vale,  
 Her hope like the morning dew !  
 That matron was lately as proud of her stay,  
*As the mightiest monarch of sceptre or sway :*

O list to the tale ! 'tis a tale of soft sorrow,  
Of Malcolm of Lorn, and young Ann of Glen-Ora.

The sun is sweet at early morn,  
Just blushing from the ocean's bosom ;  
The rose that decks the woodland thorn  
Is fairest in its opening blossom ;  
Sweeter than opening rose in dew,  
Than vernal flowers of richest hue,  
Than fragrant birch or weeping willow,  
Than red sun resting on the billow ;  
Sweeter than aught to mortals given  
The heart and soul to prove ;  
Sweeter than aught beneath the heaven,  
The joys of early love !  
Never did maiden, and manly youth,  
Love with such fervour, and love with such truth ;  
Or pleasures and virtues alternately borrow,  
As Malcolm of Lorn, and fair Ann of Glen-Ora.

The day is come, the dreaded day,  
Must part two loving hearts for ever :  
The ship lies rocking in the bay,  
The boat comes rippling up the river ;  
O happy has the gloaming's eye  
In green Glen-Ora's bosom seen them !  
But soon shall lands and nations lie,  
And angry oceans roll between them.  
Yes, they must part, for ever part,  
Chill falls the truth on either heart ;  
For honour, titles, wealth, and state,  
In distant lands her sire await.

The maid must with her sire away,  
She cannot stay behind ;  
Straight to the south the pennons play,  
And steady is the wind.  
Shall Malcolm relinquish the home of his youth,  
And sail with his love to the lands of the south ?  
Ah, no ! for his father is gone to the tomb—  
One parent survives in her desolate home !  
No child but her Malcolm to cheer her lone way ;  
Break not her fond heart, gentle Malcolm, O stay !

The boat impatient leans ashore,  
Her prow sleeps on a sandy pillow ;  
The rower leans upon his oar,  
Already bent to brush the billow.  
O ! Malcolm, view yon melting eyes,  
With tears yon stainless roses steeping !  
O ! Malcolm, list thy mother's sighs ;  
She's leaning o'er her staff and weeping !  
Thy Anna's heart is bound to thine,  
And must that gentle heart repine ?  
Quick from the shore the boat must fly  
Her soul is speaking through her eye ;  
Think of thy joys in Ora's shade ;  
From Anna canst thou sever ?  
Think of the vows thou often hast made,  
To love the dear maiden for ever.  
And canst thou forego such beauty and youth,  
Such maiden honour and spotless truth ?  
Forbid it !—He yields ; to the boat he draws nigh—  
Haste, Malcolm, aboard, and revert not thine eye.

That trembling voice, in murmurs weak,  
Comes not to blast the hopes before thee ;  
For pity, Malcolm, turn, and take  
A last farewell of her that bore thee.  
She says no word to mar thy bliss ;  
A last embrace, a parting kiss,  
Her love deserves ;—then be thou gone ;  
A mother's joys are thine alone.  
Friendship may fade, and fortune prove  
Deceitful to thy heart ;  
But never can a mother's love  
From her own offspring part.  
That tender form, now bent and gray,  
Shall quickly sink to her native clay ;  
Then who shall watch her parting breath,  
And shed a tear o'er her couch of death ?  
Who follow the dust to its long, long home,  
And lay that head in an honoured tomb ?

Oft hast thou, to her bosom prest,  
For many a day about been borne ;  
Oft hushed and cradled on her breast,  
And canst thou leave that breast forlorn ?  
O'er all thy ails her heart has bled ;  
Oft has she watched beside thy bed ;  
Oft prayed for thee in dell at even,  
Beneath the pitying stars of heaven.  
Ah ! Malcolm, ne'er was parent yet  
So tender, so benign !  
Never was maid so loved, so sweet,  
Nor soul so rent as thine !

He looked to the boat—slow she heaved from the shore ;

He saw his loved Anna all speechless implore  
But, grasped by a cold and a trembling hand,  
He clung to his parent, and sunk on the strand.

The boat across the tide flew fast,  
And left a silver curve behind ;  
Loud sung the sailor from the mast,  
Spreading his sails before the wind.  
The stately ship, adown the bay,  
A corslet framed of heaving snow,  
And flurred on high the slender spray,  
Till rainbows gleamed around her prow  
How strained was Malcolm's watery eye,  
Yon fleeting vision to descry !  
But, ah ! her virgin form so fair,  
Soon vanished in the liquid air.  
Away to Ora's headland steep  
The youth retired the while,  
And saw the unpitying vessel sweep  
Around yon Highland isle.  
His heart and his mind with that vessel had gone ;  
His sorrow was deep, and despairing his moan,  
When, lifting his eyes from the green heaving deep,  
He prayed the Almighty his Anna to keep.

High o'er the crested cliffs of Lorn  
The curlew coned her wild bravura ;  
The sun, in pall of purple borne,  
Was hastening down the steeps of Jura  
The glowing ocean heaved her breast,  
Her wandering lover's glances under ;

And showed his radiant form, imprest  
Deep in a wavy world of wonder.  
Not all the ocean's dyes at even,  
Though varied as the bow of heaven ;  
The countless isles so dusky blue,  
Nor medley of the gray curlew,  
Could light on Malcolm's spirit shed ;  
Their glory all was gone !  
For his joy was fled, his hope was dead,  
And his heart forsaken and lone.  
The sea-bird sought her roofless nest,  
To warm her brood with her downy breast  
And near her home, on the margin dun,  
A mother weeps o'er her duteous son.

One little boat alone is seen  
On all the lovely dappled main,  
That softly sinks the waves between,  
Then vaults their heaving breasts again ;  
With snowy sail, and rowers' sweep,  
Across the tide she seems to fly :  
Why bears she on yon headland steep,  
Where neither house nor home is nigh ?  
Is that a vision from the deep  
That springs ashore and scales the steep,  
Nor ever stays its ardent haste  
Till sunk upon young Malcolm's breast !  
Oh ! spare that breast so lowly laid,  
So fraught with deepest sorrow !  
It is his own, his darling maid,  
Young Anna of Glen-Ora !—  
“ My Malcolm ! part we ne'er again !  
*My father saw thy bosom's pain ;*

Pitied my grief from thee to sever ;  
Now I, and Glen-Ora, are thine for ever !"—

That blaze of joy through clouds of woe  
Too fierce upon his heart did fall ;  
For, ah ! the shaft had left the bow,  
Which power of man could not recall !  
No word of love could Malcolm speak ;  
No raptured kiss his lips impart ;  
No tear bedewed his shivering cheek,  
To ease the grasp that held his heart.  
His arms essayed one kind embrace—  
Will they enclose her? never ! never !  
A smile set softly on his face,  
But ah ! the eye was set for ever !  
'Twas more than broken heart could brook :  
How throbs that breast !—How still that look !  
One shiver more ! All ! all is o'er !—  
As melts the wave on level shore ;  
As fades the dye of falling even,  
Far on the silver verge of heaven ;  
As on thy ear the minstrel's lay,—  
So died the comely youth away."

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The strain died soft in note of woe,  
Nor breath nor whisper 'gan to flow  
From courtly circle ; all was still  
As midnight on the lonely hill.  
So well that foreign minstrel's strain  
Had mimicked passion, woe, and pain,  
Seemed even the chilly hand of death  
*Stealing away his mellow breath.*

So sighed—so stopped—so died his lay, —  
*His* spirit too seemed fled for aye.

'Tis true, the gay attentive throng  
Admired, but loved not much, his song ;  
Admired his wondrous voice and skill,  
His harp that thrilled or wept at will.  
But that affected gaudy rhyme,  
The querulous keys and changing chime,  
Scarce could the Highland chieftain brook  
Disdain seemed kindling in his look,  
That song so vapid, artful, terse,  
Should e'er compete with Scottish verse.

But she, the fairest of the fair,  
Who sat enthroned in gilded chair,  
Well skilled in foreign minstrelsy  
And artful airs of Italy,  
Listened his song, with raptures wild,  
And on the happy minstrel smiled.  
Soon did the wily stranger's eye  
The notice most he wished espy,  
Then poured his numbers bold and free,  
Fired by the grace of majesty ;  
And when his last notes died away,  
When sunk in well-feigned death he lay,  
When round the crowd began to ring,  
Thinking his spirit on the wing,—  
First of the dames she came along,  
Wept, sighed, and marvelled 'mid the throng.  
And when they raised him, it was said  
The *beauteous sovereign* deigned her aid ;



And in her hands, so soft and warm,  
Upheld the minstrel's hand and arm.  
Then oped his eye with rapture fired ;  
He smiled, and, bowing oft, retired ;  
Pleased he so soon had realized  
What more than gold or fame he prized.

Next in the list was Gardyn's name .  
No sooner called than forth he came.  
Stately he strode, nor bow made he,  
Nor even a look of courtesy.  
The simpering cringe, and fawning look,  
Of him who late the lists forsook,  
Roused his proud heart, and fired his eye,  
That glowed with native dignity.

Full sixty years the bard had seen,  
Yet still his manly form and mien,  
His garb of ancient Caledon,  
Where lines of silk and scarlet shone,  
And golden garters 'neath his knee,  
Announced no man of mean degree.

Upon his harp, of wondrous frame,  
Was carved his lineage and his name.  
There stood the cross that name above,  
Fair emblem of Almighty love ;  
Beneath rose an embossment proud,—  
A Rose beneath a Thistle bowed.

Lightly upon the form he sprung,  
And his bold harp impetuous rung.

Not one by one the chords he tried,  
But brushed them o'er from side to side,  
With either hand, so rapid, loud,  
Shook were the halls of Holyrood.  
Then in a mellow tone, and strong,  
He poured this wild and dreadful song.--

### Young Kennedy.

#### THE SECOND BARD'S SONG.

When the gusts of October had rifled the thorn,  
Had dappled the woodland, and umbered the plain,  
In den of the mountain was Kennedy born ;  
There hushed by the tempest, baptized with the rain.  
His cradle, a mat that swung light on the oak ;  
His couch, the sear mountain-fern, spread on the rock ;  
The white knobs of ice from the chilled nipple hung,  
And loud winter-torrents his lullaby sung.

Unheeded he shivered, unheeded he cried ;  
Soon died on the breeze of the forest his moan.  
To his wailings, the weary wood-echo replied ;  
His watcher, the wondering redbreast alone.  
Oft gazed his young eye on the whirl of the storm,  
And all the wild shades that the desert deform ;  
From cleft in the correi, which thunders had riven,  
It oped on the pale fleeting billows of heaven.

The nursling of misery, young Kennedy learned  
His hunger, his thirst, and his passions to feed :  
With pity for others his heart never yearned,—  
Their pain was his pleasure,—their sorrow his meed.

His eye was the eagle's, the twilight his hue ;  
His stature like pine of the hill where he grew ;  
His soul was the neal-fire, inhaled from his den,  
And never knew fear, save for ghost of the glen.

His father a chief, for barbarity known,  
Proscribed, and by gallant Macdougall expelled ;  
Where rolls the dark Teith through the valley of Doune,  
The conqueror's menial he toiled in the field.  
His master he loved not, obeyed with a scowl,  
Scarce smothered his hate, and his rancour of soul ;  
When challenged, his eye and his colour would change,  
His proud bosom nursing and planning revenge.

Matilda, ah ! woe that the wild rose's dye,  
Shed over thy maiden cheek, caused thee to rue !  
O ! why was the sphere of thy love-rolling eye  
Inlaid with the diamond, and dipt in the dew ?  
Thy father's sole daughter ; his hope, and his care ;  
The child of his age, and the child of his prayer ;  
And thine was the heart that was gentle and kind,  
And light as the feather, that sports in the wind.

To her home from the Lowlands, Matilda returned ;  
All fair was her form, and untainted her mind.  
Young Kennedy saw her, his appetite burned  
As fierce as the moor-flame impelled by the wind.  
Was it love ? No ; the ray his dark soul never knew,  
That spark which eternity burns to renew  
'Twas the flesh of desire, kindled fierce by revenge,  
Which savages feel the brown desert that range.

Sweet woman ! too well is thy tenderness known ;  
Too often deep sorrow succeeds thy love-smile ;  
Too oft, in a moment, thy peace overthrown,—  
Fair butt of delusion, of passion, and guile !  
What heart will not bleed for Matilda so gay  
To art and to long perseverance a prey ?  
Why sings yon scared blackbird in sorrowful mood ?  
Why blushes the daisy deep in the green-wood ?

Sweet woman ! with virtue, thou'rt lofty, thou'rt free ;  
Yield that, thou'rt a slave, and the mark of disdain :  
No blossom of spring is beleagured like thee,  
Though brushed by the lightning, the wind, and the  
rain.

Matilda is fallen ! With tears in her eye  
She seeks her destroyer ; but only can sigh.  
Matilda has fallen, and sorrow her doom,—  
The flower of the valley is nipt in the bloom.

Ah ! Kennedy, vengeance hangs over thine head !  
Escape to thy native Glengary forlorn :  
Why art thou at midnight away from thy bed ?  
Why quakes thy big heart at the break of the morn ?  
Why chatters yon magpie on gable so loud ?  
Why flits yon light vision in gossamer shroud ?  
How came yon white doves from the window to fly,  
And hover on weariless wing to the sky ?

Yon pie is the prophet of terror and death.  
O'er Abel's green arbour that omen was given.  
Yon pale boding phantom, a messenger wraith ;  
Yon doves two fair angels commissioned of Heaven.

The sun is in state, and the reapers in motion ;  
Why were they not called to their morning devotion ?  
Why slumbers Macdougall so long in his bed ?  
Ah ! pale on his couch the old chieftain lies dead !

Though grateful the hope to the death-bed that flies,  
That lovers and friends o'er our ashes will weep ;  
The soul, when released from her lingering ties,  
In secret may see if their sorrows are deep.  
Who wept for the worthy Macdougall ?—Not one !  
His darling Matilda, who, two months ago,  
Would have mourned for her father in sorrow extreme  
Indulged in a painful delectable dream.

But, why do the matrons, while dressing the dead,  
Sit silent, and look as if something they knew ?  
Why gaze on the features ? Why move they the head,  
And point at the bosom so dappled and blue ?  
Say, was there foul play ?—Then, why sleeps the red  
thunder ?  
Ah ! hold, for Suspicion stands silent with wonder.  
The body's entombed, and the green turf laid over—  
Matilda is wed to her dark Highland lover.

Yes, the new moon that stooped over green Aberfoyle,  
And shed her light dews on a father's new grave,  
Beheld, in her wane, the gay wedding turmoil,  
And lighted the bride to her chamber at eve :  
Blue, blue was the heaven ; and, o'er the wide scene,  
A vapoury silver veil floated serene,  
A fairy perspective, that bore from the eye  
Wood, mountain, and meadow, in distance to lie.

The scene was so still, it was all like a vision ;

The lamp of the moon seemed as fading for ever  
'Twas awfully soft, without shade or elision ;

And nothing was heard but the rush of the river.  
But why won't the bride-maidens walk on the lea,  
Nor lovers steal out to the sycamore tree ?  
Why turn to the hall with those looks of confusion ?  
There's nothing abroad !—'tis a dream !—a delusion !

But why do the horses snort over their food,

And cling to the manger in seeming dismay ?  
What scares the old owlet afar to the wood ?

Why screams the blue heron, as hastening away ?  
Say, why is the dog hid so deep in his cover ?  
Each window barred up, and the curtain drawn over ?  
Each white maiden-bosom still heaving so high,  
And fixed on another each fear-speaking eye ?

'Tis all an illusion ! the lamp let us trim !

Come, rouse thee, old minstrel, to strains of renown ;  
The old cup is empty, fill round to the brim,

And drink the young pair to their chamber just gone.  
Ha ! why is the cup from the lip ta'en away ?  
Why fixed every form like a statue of clay ?  
Say, whence is that outcry of horrid despair ?  
Haste, fly to the marriage bed-chamber—'tis there.

O ! haste thee, Strath-Allan, Glen-Ogle, away,

These outcries betoken wild horror and woe ;  
The dull ear of midnight is stunned with dismay ;

Glen-Ogle ! Strath-Allan ! fly swift as the roe.  
'Mid darkness and death, on eternity's brim,  
*You stood with Macdonald and Arch'bald the Grim ;*

Then why do you hesitate ? why do you stand  
With claymore unsheathed, and red taper in hand ?

The tumult is o'er ; not a murmur nor groan :

What footsteps so madly pace through the saloon ?

'Tis Kennedy, naked and ghastly, alone,

Who hies him away by the light of the moon.

All prostrate and bleeding, Matilda they found,

The threshold her pillow, her couch the cold ground ;

Her features distorted, her colour the clay,

Her feelings, her voice, and her reason away.

Ere morn they returned ; but how well had they never !

They brought with them horror too deep to sustain ;

Returned but to chasten, and vanish for ever,

To harrow the bosom and fever the brain.

List, list to her tale, youth, levity, beauty ;—

O ! sweet is the path of devotion and duty !—

When pleasure smiles sweetest, dread danger and death.

And think of Matilda, the flower of the Teith.

#### *The Bride's Tale.*

I had just laid me down, but no word could I pray !

I had pillowed my head, and drawn up the bed-cover ;

I thought of the grave where my loved father lay

So damp and so cold, with the grass growing over.

I looked to my husband ; but just as he came

To enter my couch, it seemed all in a flame,

A ghastly refulgence as bright as day-noon,

Though shut was the chamber from eve of the moon.

stower of being ! in pity, O ! hide  
 That sight from the eye of my spirit for ever ;  
 at page from the volume of memory divide,  
 Or memory and being eternally sever !  
 father approached ; our bed-curtains he drew ;  
 ! well the gray locks and pale features I knew :  
 w his fix'd eye-balls indignantly glow ;  
 : still in that look there were pity and woe.

) ! hide thee, my daughter," he eagerly cried ;  
 ' O haste from the bed of that parricide lover !  
 brace not thy husband, unfortunate bride,  
 Thy red cup of misery already runs over.  
 strangled thy father ! thy guilt paved the way ;  
 y heart yet is blameless, O fly while you may !  
 y portion of life must calamity leaven ;  
 : fly while there's hope of forgiveness from Heaven.

and thou, fell destroyer of virtue and life !  
 ) ! well may'st thou quake at thy terrible doom ;  
 body or soul, with barbarity rife,  
 On earth is no refuge, in heaven no room.  
 whither thou wilt, I will follow thee still,  
 dens of the forest, or mists of the hill ;  
 e task I'm assigned, which I'll never forego,  
 : chase thee from earth to thy dwelling below.

he cave shall not cover, the cloud shall not hide  
 thee ;

at noon I will wither thy sight with my frown :  
 gloom of the night I will lay me beside thee,  
 and pierce with this weapon thy bosom of stone."

OL. I.

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Fast fled the despoiler with howlings most dire,  
Fast followed the spirit with rapier of fire ;  
Away, and away, through the silent saloon,  
And away, and away, by the light of the moon.

To follow I tried, but sunk down at the door,  
Alas ! from that trance that I ever awoke ?  
How wanders my mind ! I shall see him no more,  
Till God shall yon gates everlasting unlock.  
My poor brow is open, 'tis burning with pain,  
O kiss it, sweet vision ! O kiss it again !  
Now give me thine hand ; I will fly ! I will fly !  
Away, on the morn's dappled wing, to the sky.

#### The Conclusion.

O ! shepherd of Braco, look well to thy flock, -  
The piles of Glen-Ardochy murmur and jar ;  
The rook and the raven converse from the rock,  
The beasts of the forest are howling afar.  
Shrill pipes the goss-hawk his dire tidings to tell,  
The grey mountain-falcon accords with his yell ;  
Aloft on bold pinion the eagle is borne,  
To ring the alarm at the gates of the morn.

Ah ! shepherd, thy kids wander safe in the wood,  
Thy lambs feed in peace on Ben-Ardochy's brow ;  
Then why is the hoary cliff sheeted with blood ?  
And what the poor carcass lies mangled below ?  
Oh, hie thee away to thy hut at the fountain,  
And dig a lone grave on the top of yon mountain ;  
But fly it for ever when falls the gray gloaming,  
For there a grim phantom still naked is roaming.

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Gardyn with stately step withdrew,  
While plaudits round the circle flew.

Woe that the bard, whose thrilling song  
Has poured from age to age along,  
Should perish from the lists of fame,  
And lose his only boon—a name.  
Yet many a song of wondrous power,  
Well known in cot and green-wood bower,  
Wherever swells the shepherd's reed  
On Yarrow's banks and braes of Tweed ;  
Yes, many a song of olden time,  
Of rude array, and air sublime,  
Though long on time's dark whirlpool tossed,  
The song is saved, the bard is lost.

Yet have I weened, when these I sung  
On Ettrick banks, while mind was young ;  
When on the eve their strains I threw.  
And youths and maidens round me drew ;  
Or chanted in the lonely glen,  
Far from the haunts and eyes of men :  
Yes, I have weened, with fondest sigh,  
The spirit of the bard was nigh ;  
Swung by the breeze on braken pile,  
Or hovering o'er me with a smile.  
Would fancy still her dreams combine,  
That spirit, too, might breathe on mine ;  
Well pleased to see her songs the joy  
Of that poor lonely shepherd boy.

'Tis said, and I believe the tale,  
That *many rhymes which still prevail,*

Of genuine ardour, bold and free,  
Were aye admired, and aye will be,  
Had never been, or shortly stood,  
But for that Wake at Holyrood.  
Certes that many a bard of name,  
Who there appeared and strove for fame,  
No record names, nor minstrel's tongue ;  
Not even are known the lays they sung.

The fifth was from a western shore,  
Where rolls the dark and sullen Orr :  
Of peasant make, and doubtful mein,  
Affecting airs of proud disdain ;  
Wide curled his raven locks and high,  
Dark was his visage, dark his eye,  
That glanced around on dames and men  
Like falcon's on the cliffs of Ken.  
Some ruffian mendicant, whose wit  
Presumed at much, for all unfit.  
No one could read the character,  
If *knave* or *genius* writ was there ;  
But all supposed, from mien and frame,  
From Erin he an exile came.

With hollow voice, and harp ill strung,  
Some bungling parody he sung,  
Well known to maid and matron gray,  
Through all the glens of Galloway ;  
For often had he conned it there,  
With simpering and affected air.  
Listened the Court, with sidelong bend,  
In wonder how the strain would end.

But long ere that it grew so plain,  
They scarce from hooting could refrain ;  
And each to others 'gan to say,  
“ What good can come from Galloway ?”

Woe for the *man* so indiscreet !  
For bard would be a name unmeet  
For self-sufficient sordid elf,  
Whom none admires but he himself.  
Unheard by him the scorner's tongue,  
For still he capered and he sung,  
With many an awkward gape the while,  
And many a dark delighted smile,  
Till round the throne the murmurs ran,  
Till ladies blushed behind the fan ;  
And when the rustic ceased to sing,  
A hiss of scorn ran round the ring.  
Dark grinned the fool around the form,  
With blood-shot eye, and face of storm ;  
Sprung from his seat with awkward leap,  
And muttered curses dark and deep.

The sixth, too, from that country he,  
Where heath-cocks bay o'er western Dee ;  
Where Summer spreads her purple screen  
O'er moors where greensward ne'er was seen ;  
Nor shade, o'er all the prospect stern,  
Save crusted rock, or warrior's cairn.

Gentle his form, his manners meet,  
His harp was soft, his voice was sweet ;  
He sung Lochryan's hapless maid,  
In *bloom of youth* by love betrayed ;

Turned from her lover's bower at last,  
 To brave the chilly midnight blast ;  
 And bitterer far, the pangs to prove  
 Of ruined fame, and slighted love ;  
 A tender babe, her arms within,  
 Sobbing and " shivering at the chin."  
 No lady's cheek in court was dry,  
 So softly poured the melody.

The eighth was from the Leven coast :  
 The rest who sung that night are lost.

Mounted the bard of Fife on high,  
 Bushy his beard, and wild his eye :  
 His cheek was furrowed by the gale,  
 And his thin locks were long and pale.  
 Full hardly passed he through the throng,  
 Dragging on crutches, slow along,  
 His feeble and unhealthy frame,  
 And kindness welcomed as he came.  
 His unassuming aspect mild,  
 Calm and benignant as a child,  
 Yet spoke to all that viewed him nigh,  
 That more was there than met the eye  
 Some wizard of the shore he seemed,  
 Who through the scenes of life had dreamed,  
 Of spells that vital life benumb,  
 Of formless spirits wandering dumb,  
 Where aspens in the moon-beam quake,  
 With sîdering pile, or mountain lake.  
 Listened th  
 In wonder how that fays and spectres wan  
 'h the thoughts of man ;

In dreams their future fates foretold,  
And spread the death-flame on the wold ;  
Or flagged at eve each restless wing  
In dells their vesper hymns to sing,

Such was our bard, such were his lays ;  
And long, by green Benarty's base,  
His wild wood-notes, from ivy cave,  
Had waked the dawning from the wave.  
At evening fall, in lonesome dale,  
He kept strange converse with the gale ;  
Held worldly pomp in high derision,  
And wandered in a world of vision.

Of mountain ash his harp was framed,  
The brazen chords all trembling flamed,  
As, in a rugged northern tongue,  
This mad unearthly song he sung.

### **The Witch of Fife.**

#### **THE EIGHTH BARD'S SONG.**

“ Quhare haif ye been, ye ill womyne,  
These three lang nightis fra hame ?  
Quhat garris the sweit drap fra yer brow,  
Like clotis of the saut sea faem ?

“ It fearis me muckil ye haif seen  
Quhat guid man never knew ;  
It fearis me muckil ye haif been  
Quhare the gray cock never crew

“ But the spell may crack, and the brydel breck,  
Then sherpe yer werde will be ;  
Ye had better sleipe in yer bed at hame,  
Wi’ yer deire littil bairnis and me.”—

‘ Sit doune, sit doune, my leil auld man,  
Sit doune, and listin to me ;  
I’ll gar the hayre stand on yer crown,  
And the cauld sweit blind yer ee.

‘ But tell nae wordis, my guid auld man,  
Tell never word again ;  
Or deire shall be yer courtisye,  
And driche and sair yer pain.

‘ The first leet night, quhan the new moon set,  
Quhan all was douffe and mirk,  
We saddled our naigis wi’ the moon-fern leif,  
And rode fra Kilmerrin kirk.

‘ Some horses ware of the brume-cow framit,  
And some of the greine bay tree ;  
But mine was made of ane humloke schaw,  
And a stout stallion was he.

‘ We raide the tod doune on the hill,  
The martin on the law ;  
And we huntyd the hoolet out of brethe,  
And forcit him doune to fa.’—

“ Quhat guid was that, ye ill womyne ?  
Quhat guid was that to thee ?

Ye wald better haif been in yer bed at hame,  
Wi' yer deire littil bairnis and me."—

' And aye we raide, and se merrily we raide,  
Throw the merkist gloffis of the night ;  
And we swam the floode, and we darnit the woode,  
Till we cam to the Lommond height.

' And quhan we cam to the Lommond height,  
Se lythlye we lychtid doune ;  
And we drank fra the hornis that never grew,  
The beer that was never browin.

' Then up there raise ane wee wee man,  
Fra nethe the moss-gray stane ;  
His fece was wan like the collifloure,  
For he nouthir had blude nor bane.

' He set ane reid-pipe til his muthe,  
And he playit se bonnilye,  
Till the gray curlew and the black-cock flew  
To listen his melodye.

' It rang se sweit through the grein Lom  
That the nycht-winde lowner blew ;  
And it soupit alang the Loch Leven,  
And wakinit the white sea-mew.

' It rang se sweit through the grein Lommond,  
Se sweetly butt and se shill,  
That the wezilis laup out of their mouldy holis,  
And dancit on the mydnycht hill.



' The corby craw cam gledgin near,  
The ern ged veeryng bye ;  
And the troutis laup out of the Leven Loch,  
Charmit with the melodye.

' And aye we dancit on the grein Lommond,  
Till the dawn on the ocean grew :  
Ne wonder I was a weary wycht  
Quhan I cam hame to you.'—

" Quhat guid, quhat guid, my weird weird wyfe,  
Quhat guid was that to thee ?  
Ye wald better haif bein in yer bed at hame  
Wi' yer deire littil bairnis and me."

' The second nycht, quhan the new moon set,  
O'er the roaryng sea we flew ;  
The cockle-shell our trusty bark,  
Our sailis of the grein sea-rue.

' And the bauld windis blew, and the fire-flauchtis flew,  
And the sea ran to the skie ;  
And the thunner it growlit, and the sea-dogs howlit,  
As we gaed scouryng bye.

' And aye we mountit the sea-grein hillis,  
Quhill we brushit thro' the cludis of the hevin ;  
Than sousit dounright like the stern-shot light,  
Fra the liftis blue casement driven.

' But our taickil stood, and our bark was good,  
And se pang was our pearly prow ;

Quhan we culdna speil the brow of the wavis,  
We needilit them throu belowe.

‘ As fast as the hail, as fast as the gale,  
As fast as the mydnycht leme,  
We borit the breiste of the burstyng swale,  
Or fluffit i’ the flotyng faem.

‘ And quhan to the Norraway shore we wan,  
We muntyd our steedis of the wynde,  
And we splashit the floode, and we darnit the woode,  
And we left the shour behynde.

‘ Fleit is the roe on the grein Lommond,  
And swift is the couryng grew,  
The rein-deir dun can eithly run,  
Quhan the houndis and the hornis pursue.

‘ But nowther the roe, nor the rein-deir dun,  
The hinde nor the couryng grew,  
Culde fly owr montaine, muir, and dale,  
As our braw steedis they flew.

‘ The dales war deep, and the Doffrinis steep,  
And we raise to the skyis ee-bree ;  
Quhite, quhite was our rode, that was never trode,  
Owr the snawis of eternity !

‘ And quhan we cam to the Lapland lone,  
The fairies war all in array ;  
For all the genii of the north  
War keipyng their holeday.

' The warlock men and the weird weynyng,  
And the fays of the wood and the steip,  
And the phantom hunteris all war there,  
And the mermaidis of the deip.

' And they washit us all with the witch-water,  
Distillit fra the muirland dew,  
Quhill our beauty blumit like the Lapland rose,  
That wylde in the foreste grew.'—

" Ye lee, ye lee, ye ill womyne,  
Se loud as I heir ye lee !  
For the warst-faurd wyfe on the shoris of Fyfe  
Is cumlye comparit wi' thee."—

' Then the mermaidis sang and the woodlandis rang  
Se sweetly swellit the quire ;  
On every cliff a herpe they hang,  
On every tree a lyre.

' And aye they sang, and the woodlandis rang,  
And we drank, and we drank se deip ;  
Then saft in the armis of the warlock men,  
We laid us dune to sleip.'—

" Away, away, ye ill womyne,  
An ill deide met ye dee !  
Quhan ye hae pruvit se false to yer God,  
Ye can never pruve true to me."—

' And there we learnit fra the fairy foke,  
And fra our master true,

The wordis that can beire us throu the air,  
And lokkis and barris undo.

' Last nycht we met at Maisry's cot ;  
Richt weil the wordis we knew ;  
And we set a foot on the black cruik-shell,  
And out at the lum we flew.

' And we flew owr hill, and we flew owr dale,  
And we flew owr firth and sea,  
Until we cam to merry Carlisle,  
Quhare we lightit on the lea.

' We gaed to the vault beyound the towir,  
Quhare we enterit free as ayr ;  
And we drank, and we drank of the bishopis wine  
Quhill we culde drynk ne mair.'—

" Gin that be true, my guid auld wyfe,  
Whilk thou hast tauld to me,  
Betide my death, betide my lyfe,  
I'll beire thee companye.

" Neist tyme ye gaung to merry Carlisle  
To drynk of the blude-reid wyne,  
Beshrew my heart, I'll fly with thee,  
If the deil should fly behynde."

' Ah ! little do ye ken, my silly auld man,  
The daingeris we maun dree ;  
Last nychte we drank of the bishopis wyne,  
Quhill near near taen war we.

' Afore we wan to the Sandy Ford,  
The gor-cockis nichering flew ;  
The lofty crest of Ettrick Pen  
Was wavit about with blue,  
And, flichtering throu the ayr, we fand  
The chill chill mornying dew

' As we flew ovr the hillis of Braid,  
The sun raise fair and cleir ;  
There gurlly James, and his baronis braw,  
War out to hunt the deir.

Their bowis they drew, their arrowis flew  
And piercit the ayr with speide,  
Quhill purpil fell the mornying dew  
Wi' witch-blude rank and reide.

' Littil do ye ken, my silly auld man,  
The daingeris we maun dree ;  
Ne wonder I am a weary wucht  
Quhan I come hame to thee.'—

" But tell me the *word*, my guid auld wyfe  
Come tell it me speedilye :  
For I lang to drynk of the guid reide wyne,  
And to wyng the ayr with thee.

" Yer hellish horse I wilna ryde,  
Nor sail the seas in the wynde ;  
But I can flee as weil as thee,  
And I'll drynk quhill ye be blynd."—

‘ O fy ! O fy ! my leil auld man,  
That word I darena tell ;  
It wald turn this warld all upside down,  
And make it warse than hell.

‘ For all the lasses in the land  
Wald munt the wynde and fly ;  
And the men wald doff their doublets syde,  
And after them wald ply.’—

But the auld guidman was ane cunningg auld man,  
And ane cunningg auld man was he ;  
And he watchit, and he watchit for mony a nychte,  
The witches’ flychte to see.

Ane nychte he darnit in Maisry’s cot ;  
The fearless haggs cam in ;  
And he heard the word of awsome weird,  
And he saw their deidis of synn.

Then ane by ane they said that word,  
As fast to the fire they drew ;  
Then set a foot on the black cruik-shell,  
And out at the lum they flew.

The auld guidman cam fra his hole  
With feire and muckil dreide,  
But yet he culdna think to rue,  
For the wyne cam in his head.

He set his foot in the black cruik-shell,  
With ane fixit and ane wawlying ee ;

And he said the word that I darena say,  
And out at the lum flew he.

The witches skalit the moon-beam pale ;  
Deep groanit the trembling wynde ;  
But they never wist till our auld guidman  
Was hoveryng them behynde.

They flew to the vaultis of merry Carlisle,  
Quhare they enterit free as ayr ;  
And they drank and they drank of the bishopis wyne  
Quhill they culde drynk ne mair.

The auld guidman he grew se crouse,  
He dancit on the mouldy ground,  
And he sang the bonniest sangs of Fyfe,  
And he tuzzlit the kerlyngs round.

And aye he piercit the tither butt,  
And he suckit, and he suckit se lang,  
Quhill his een they closit, and his voice grew low,  
And his tongue wald hardly gang.

The kerlyngs drank of the bishopis wyne  
Quhill they scentit the morning wynde ;  
Then clove again the yielding ayr,  
And left the auld man behynde.

And aye he sleipit on the damp damp floor,  
He sleipit and he snorit amain ;  
He never dreamit he was far fra hame,  
Or that the auld wyvis war gane.

And aye he sleipit on the damp damp floor,  
    Quhill past the mid-day highte,  
Quhan wakenit by five rough Englishmen  
    That trailit him to the lychte.

“ Now quha are ye, ye silly auld man,  
    That sleipis se sound and se weil ?  
Or how gat ye into the bishopis vault  
    Throu lokkis and barris of steel ?”

The auld gudeman he tryit to speak,  
    But ane word he culdna fynde ;  
He tryit to think, but his head whirlit round,  
    And ane thing he culdna mynde :—  
“ I cam fra Fyfe,” the auld man cryit,  
    “ And I cam on the mydnycht wynde.”

They nickit the auld man, and they prickit the auld  
    man,  
And they yerkit his limbis with twine,  
Quhill the reide blude ran in his hose and shoon,  
    But some cryit it was wyne.

They lickit the auld man, and they prickit the auld  
    man,  
And they tyit him till ane stone ;  
And they set ane bele-fire him about,  
    To burn him skin and bone.

“ O wae to me !” said the puir auld man,  
    “ That ever I saw the day !  
And wae be to all the ill wemyng  
    *That lead puir men astray !*”



“ Let nevir ane auld man after this  
To lawless greide inclyne ;  
Let nevir ane auld man after this  
Rin post to the deil for wyne.”

The reike flew up in the auld manis face,  
And choukit him bitterlye ;  
And the lowe cam up with ane angry blese,  
And it syngit his auld breek-knee.

He lukit to the land fra whence he cam,  
For lukis he culde get ne mae ;  
And he thochte of his deire littil bairnis at hame,  
And O the auld man was wae !

But they turnit their facis to the sun,  
With gloffe and wonderous glair,  
For they saw ane thing beth lairge and dun,  
Comin swaipin down the ayr.

That burd it cam fra the landis o' Fyfe,  
And it cam rycht tymeouslye,  
For quha was it but the auld manis wife,  
Just comit his dethe to see.

Scho put ane reide cap on his heide,  
And the auld guidman lookit fain,  
Then whisperit ane word intil his lug,  
And tovit to the ayr again.

The auld guidman he gae ane bob,  
*I' the mids o' the burnyng lowe ;*

And the sheklis that band him to the ring,  
They fell fra his armis like towe.

He drew his breath, and he said the word,  
And he said it with muckil glee,  
Then set his fit on the burnyng pile,  
And away to the ayr flew he.

Till aince he cleirit the swirlyng reike,  
He lukit beth ferit and sad ;  
But whan he wan to the lycht blue ayr,  
He lauchit as he'd been mad.

His armis war spred, and his heid was hiche,  
And his feite stack out behynde ;  
And the laibies of the auld manis cote  
War wauffing in the wynde.

And aye he neicherit, and aye he flew,  
For he thochte the ploy se raire ;  
It was like the voice of the gainerd blue,  
Quhan he flees throu the ayr.

He lukit back to the Carlisle men  
As he borit the norlan sky ;  
He noddit his heide, and gae ane girn,  
But he nevir said guid-bye.

They vanisht far i' the liftis blue wale,  
Ne mair the English saw,  
But the auld manis lauche cam on the gale,  
With a lang and a loud gaffa.

May ever ilke man in the land of Fyfe  
Read what the drinkeris dree ;  
And nevir curse his puir auld wife,  
Rychte wicked altho scho be.

---

When ceased the minstrel's crazy-song,  
His heedful glance embraced the throng,  
And found the smile of free delight  
Dimpling the cheeks of ladies bright.  
Ah ! never yet was bard unmoved,  
When beauty smiled or birth approved !  
For though his song he holds at nought—  
“ An idle strain ! a passing thought ! ”  
Child of the soul ! 'tis held more dear  
Than aught by mortals valued here.

When Leven's bard the Court had viewed,  
His eye, his vigour, was renewed.  
No, not the evening's closing eye,  
Veiled in the rainbow's deepest dye,  
By summer breezes lulled to rest,  
Cradled on Leven's silver breast,  
Or slumbering on the distant sea,  
Imparted sweeter ecstasy.

Nor even the angel of the night,  
Kindling his holy sphere of light,  
Afar upon the heaving deep,  
To light a world of peaceful sleep,  
Though in her beam night-spirits glanced,  
And lovely fays in circles danced,

Or rank by rank rode lightly bye,—  
Was sweeter to our minstrel's eye.

Unheard the bird of morning crew ;  
Unheard the breeze of Ocean blew ;  
The night unweened had passed away,  
And dawning ushered in the day.  
The Queen's young maids, of cherub hue,  
Aside the silken curtains drew,  
And lo the Night, in still profound,  
In fleece of heaven had clothed the ground ;  
And still her furs, so light and fair,  
Floated along the morning air.  
Low stooped the pine amid the wood,  
And the tall cliffs of Salisbury stood  
Like marble columns bent and riven,  
Propping a pale and frowning heaven.

The Queen bent from her gilded chair,  
And waved her hand with graceful air :—  
“ Break up the Court, my lords ; away,  
And use the day as best you may,  
In sleep, in love, or wassail cheer ;  
The day is dark, the evening near—  
Say, will you grace my halls the while,  
And in the dance the day beguile ?  
Break up the Court, my lords ; away,  
And use the day as best you may.  
Give order that my minstrels true  
Have royal fare and honours due ;  
And warned by evening's bugle shrill,  
We meet to judge their minstrel skill.”—

Whether that Royal Wake gave birth  
To days of sleep and nights of mirth,  
Which kings and courtiers still approve,  
Which sages blame, and ladies love,  
Imports not ;—but our courtly throng  
(That chapel Wake being kept so long)  
Slept out the lowering short-lived days,  
And heard by night their native lays,  
Till fell the eve of Christmas good,  
The dedication of the rood.

Ah me ! at routs and revels gay,  
Reproach of this unthrifty day,  
Though none amongst the dames or men  
Rank higher than a citizen,  
In chair or chariot all are borne,  
Closed from the piercing eye of morn ;  
But then, though dawning blasts were keen,  
Scotland's high dames you might have seen,  
Ere from the banquet hall they rose,  
Shift their laced shoes and silken hose ;  
Their broidered kirtles round them throw,  
And wade their way through wreaths of snow,  
Leaning on Lord or lover's arm,  
Cheerful and reckless of all harm.  
Vanished those hardy times outright ;  
So is our ancient Scottish might.

Sweet be her home, admired her charms,  
Bliss to her couch in lover's arms,  
I bid in every minstrel's name,  
*I bid to every lovely dame,*

That ever gave one hour away  
To cheer the bard or list his lay

To all who love the raptures high  
Of Scottish song and minstrelsy,  
Till next the night, in sable shroud,  
Shall wrap the halls of Holyrood,  
That rival minstrels' songs I borrow—  
I bid a hearty kind good-morrow.

# THE QUEEN'S WAKE.

## NIGHT THE SECOND.



SCARCE fled the dawning's dubious gray,  
So transient was that dismal day :  
The lurid vapours, dense and stern,  
Unpierced save by the crusted cairn,  
In tenfold shroud the heavens deform ;  
While far within the brooding storm  
Travelled the sun in lonely blue,  
And noontide wore a twilight hue,

The sprites that through the welkin wing,  
That light and shade alternate bring,  
That wrap the eve in dusky veil,  
And weave the morning's purple rail ;  
From pendent clouds of deepest grain,  
Shed that dull twilight o'er the main.  
Each spire, each tower, and cliff sublime,  
Were hooded in the wreathy rime ;  
And all, ere fell the murk of even,  
Were lost within the folds of heaven.

It seemed as if the welkin's breast  
Had bowed upon the world to rest ;  
As heaven and earth to close began,  
And seal the destiny of man.

The supper bell at Court had rung ;  
The mass was said, the vesper sung ;  
In true devotion's sweetest mood,  
Beauty had kneeled before the rood ;  
But all was done in secret guise,  
Close from the zealot's searching eyes.

Then burst the bugle's lordly peal  
Along the earth's incumbent veil ;  
Swam on the cloud and lingering shower,  
To festive hall and lady's bower ;  
And found its way, with rapid boom,  
To rocks far curtained in the gloom,  
And waked their viewless bugle's strain,  
That sung the softened notes again.

Upsprung the maid from her love-dream ;  
The matron from her silken seam ;  
The abbot from his holy shrine ;  
The chiefs and warriors from their wine :  
For aye the bugle seemed to say,  
" The Wake's begun ! away, away ! "

Fast poured they in, all fair and boon,  
Till crowded was the grand saloon ;  
And scarce was left a little ring,  
In which the rival bards might sing.



First in the list that night to play,  
Was Farquhar, from the hills of Spey:  
A gay and comely youth was he,  
And seemed of noble pedigree.  
Well known to him Loch-Avin's shore,  
And all the dens of dark Glen-More ;  
Where oft, amid his roving clan,  
His shaft had pierced the ptarmigan ;  
And oft the dun deer's velvet side  
That winged shaft had ruthless dyed,  
Had struck the heath-cock whirring high,  
And brought the eagle from the sky ;  
And he had dragged the scaly brood  
From every Highland lake and flood.

Amid those scenes the youth was bred,  
Where nature's eye is stern and dread ;  
'Mid forests dark, and caverns wild,  
And mountains above mountains piled,  
Whose hoary summits, tempest-riven,  
Uprear eternal snows to heaven.  
In Cumbria's dells he too had staid,  
Raving like one in trance that's laid,  
Of things which Nature gave not birth ;  
Of heavenly damsels born of earth ;  
Of pestilence and charnel den ;  
Of ships, and seas, and souls of men :  
A moon-struck youth, by all confest,  
The dreamer of the watery West.  
His locks were fair as sunny sky ;  
His cheek was ruddy, bright his eye ;  
His speech was like the music's voice  
*Mixed with the cataract's swaying noise ;*

His harp strings sounded wild and deep,  
With lulling swell and lordly sweep.

Aloof from battle's fierce alarms,  
Prone his young mind to music's charms :  
The cliffs and woods of dark Glen-More  
He taught to chant in mystic lore ;  
For well he weened, by tarn and hill,  
Kind viewless spirits wandered still ;  
And fondly trowed the groups to spy,  
Listening his cliff-born melody.  
On Leven's bard with scorn he looked,  
His homely song he scarcely brooked ;  
But proudly mounting on the form,  
Thus sung *The Spirit of the Storm*.

### Glen-Avin.

#### THE NINTH BARD'S SONG.

Beyond the grizzly cliffs which guard  
The infant rills of Highland Dee,  
Where hunter's horn was never heard,  
Nor bugle of the forest bee ;

'Mid wastes that dorn and dreary lie,  
One mountain rears his mighty form.  
Disturbs the moon in passing bye,  
And smiles above the thunder-storm.

There Avin spreads her ample deep,  
To mirror *cliffs that brush the wain* :

Whose frigid eyes eternal weep,  
In Summer suns and Autumn rain.

There matin hymn was never sung ;  
Nor vesper, save the plover's wail ;  
But mountain eagles breed their young,  
And aerial spirits ride the gale.

An hoary sage once lingered there,  
Intent to prove some mystic scene ;  
Though cavern deep, and forest sere,  
Had whooped November's boisterous reign

That noontide fell so stern and still,  
The breath of nature seemed away ;  
The distant sigh of mountain rill  
Alone disturbed that solemn day.

Oft had that seer, at break of morn,  
Beheld the fahm glide o'er the fell ;  
And 'neath the new moon's silver horn,  
The fairies dancing in the dell ;

Had seen the spirits of the Glen,  
In every form that Ossian knew ;  
And wailings heard for living men,  
Were never more the light to view.

But, ah ! that dull foreboding day,  
He saw what mortal could not bear ;  
A sight that scared the erne away,  
And drove the wild deer from his lair

Firm in his magic ring he stood,  
When, lo! aloft on gray Cairn-gorm,  
A form appeared that chilled his blood,—  
The giant Spirit of the Storm.

His face was like the spectre wan,  
Slow gliding from the midnight isle ;  
His stature, on the mighty plan  
Of smoke-tower o'er the burning pile.

Red, red and grisly were his eyes ;  
His cap the moon-cloud's silver gray ;  
His staff the writhed snake, that lies  
Pale, bending o'er the milky way.

He cried, " Away, begone, begone !  
Half-naked, hoary, feeble form !  
How dar'st thou seek my realms alone,  
And brave the Angel of the Storm ?"—

" And who art thou," the seer replied,  
" That bear'st destruction on thy brow ?  
Whose eye no mortal can abide ;  
Dread mountain Spirit ! what art thou ?"

" Within this desert, dank and lone,  
Since rolled the world a shoreless sea,  
I've held my elemental throne,  
The terror of thy race and thee.

" I wrap the sun of heaven in blood,  
Veiling his *orient beams of light* ;

And hide the moon in sable shroud,  
Far in the alcove of the night.

“ I ride the red bolt's rapid wing,  
High on the sweeping whirlwind sail,  
And list to hear my tempests sing  
Around Glen-Avin's ample wale.

“ These everlasting hills are riven ;  
Their reverend heads are bald and gray ;  
The Greenland waves salute the heaven,  
And quench the burning stars with spray.

“ Who was it reared those whelming waves ?  
Who scalped the brows of old Cairn-Gorm ?  
And scooped these ever-yawning caves ?  
'Twas I,—the Spirit of the Storm !

“ And hence shalt thou, for evermore,  
Be doomed to ride the blast with me ;  
To shriek, amid the tempest's roar,  
By fountain, ford, and forest tree.”

The wizard cowered him to the earth,  
And orisons of dread began :

“ Hence, Spirit of infernal birth !  
Thou enemy of God and man !”

He waved his sceptre north away,  
The arctic ring was rift asunder ;  
And through the heaven the startling bray  
Burst louder than the loudest thunder.

The feathery clouds, condensed and curled,  
In columns swept the quaking glen ;  
Destruction down the dale was hurled,  
O'er bleating flocks and wondering men.

The Grampians groaned beneath the storm ;  
New mountains o'er the corrales leaned ;  
Ben-Nevis shook his shaggy form,  
And wondered what his Sovereign meant.

Even far on Yarrow's fairy dale,  
The shepherd paused in dumb dismay ;  
There passing shrieks adown the vale  
Lured many a pitying hind away.

The Lowthers felt the tyrant's wrath ;  
Proud Hartfell quaked beneath his brand ;  
And Cheviot heard the cries of death  
Guarding his loved Northumberland.

But, O ! as fell that fateful night,  
What horrors Avin wilds deform,  
And choke the ghastly lingering light !  
There whirled the vortex of the storm.

Ere morn the wind grew deadly still,  
And dawning in the air updrew  
From many a shelve and shining hill,  
Her folding robe of fairy blue.

Then, what a smooth and wondrous scene  
Hung o'er Loch-Avin's lonely breast !

Not top of tallest pine was seen,  
On which the dazzled eye could rest

But mitred cliff, and crested fell,  
In lucid curls her brows adorn,  
Aloft the radiant crescents swell,  
All pure as robes by angels worn.

Sound sleeps our seer, far from the day,  
Beneath yon sleek and wreathed cone !  
His spirit steals, unmissed, away,  
And dreams across the desert lone.

Sound sleeps our seer ! the tempests rave,  
And cold sheets o'er his bosom fling ;  
The moldwarp digs his mossy grave ;  
His requiem Avin eagles sing.

Why howls the fox above yon wreath  
That mocks the blazing Summer sun ?  
Why croaks the sable bird of death,  
As hovering o'er yon desert dun ?

When circling years have past away,  
And Summer blooms in Avin-Glen,  
Why stands yon peasant in dismay,  
Still gazing o'er the bloated den ?

Green grows the grass ! the bones are white !  
Not bones of mountain stag they seem !  
There hooted once the owl by night,  
Above the dead-light's lambent beam !

See yon lone cairn, so gray with age,  
Above the base of proud Cairn-Gorm :  
There lies the dust of Avin's sage,  
Who raised the Spirit of the Storm.

Yet still at eve, or midnight drear,  
When Wintry winds begin to sweep,  
When passing shrieks assail thine ear,  
Or murmurs by the mountain steep ;

When from the dark and sedgy dells  
Come eldritch cries of wildered men.  
Or wind-harp at thy window swells,—  
Beware the sprite of Avin-Glen !

---

Young Farquhar ceased, and, rising slow,  
Doffed his plumed bonnet, wiped his brow,  
And, flushed with conscious dignity,  
Cast o'er the crowd his falcon eye,  
And found them all in silence deep,  
As listening for the tempest's sweep.  
So well his tale of Avin's seer  
Suited the rigour of the year ;  
So high his strain, so bold his lyre,  
So fraught with rays of Celtic fire,  
They almost weened each hum that past  
The Spirit of the northern blast.

The next was named,—the very sound  
Excited merriment around.  
But when the bard himself appeared,  
*The ladies smiled, the courtiers sneered ;*



For such a simple air and mien  
Before a court had never been.  
A clown he was, bred in the wild.  
And late from native moors exiled,  
In hopes his mellow mountain strain  
High favour from the great would gain.  
Poor wight ! he never weened how hard  
For poverty to earn regard !  
Dejection o'er his visage ran,  
His coat was bare, his colour wan,  
His forest doublet darned and torn,  
His shepherd plaid all rent and worn ;  
Yet dear the symbols to his eye,  
Memorials of a time gone bye.

The bard on Ettrick's mountain green  
In Nature's bosom nursed had been,  
And oft had marked in forest lone  
Her beauties on her mountain throne ;  
Had seen her deck the wild-wood tree,  
And star with snowy gems the lea ;  
In loveliest colours paint the plain,  
And sow the moor with purple grain ;  
By golden mead and mountain sheer,  
Had viewed the Ettrick waving clear,  
Where shadowy flocks of purest snow  
Seemed grazing in a world below.

Instead of Ocean's billowy pride,  
Where monsters play and navies ride,  
Oft had he viewed, as morning rose,  
*The bosom of the lonely Lowes,*

Plowed far by many a downy keel  
Of wild-duck and of vagrant teal.  
Oft thrilled his heart at close of even,  
To see the dappled vales of heaven,  
With many a mountain, moor, and tree,  
Asleep upon the Saint Mary ;  
The pilot swan majestic wind,  
With all his cygnet fleet behind,  
So softly sail, and swiftly row,  
With sable oar and silken prow.  
Instead of war's unhallowed form,  
His eye had seen the thunder-storm  
Descend within the mountain's brim,  
And shroud him in its chambers grim ;  
Then from its bowels burst amain  
The sheeted flame and sounding rain,  
And by the bolts in thunder borne,  
The heaven's own breast and mountain torn ;  
The wild roe from the forest driven ;  
The oaks of ages peeled and riven ;  
Impending oceans whirl and boil,  
Convulsed by Nature's grand turmoil.

Instead of arms or golden crest,  
His harp with mimic flowers was drest :  
Around, in graceful streamers, fell  
The briar-rose and the heather-bell ;  
And there, his learning deep to prove,  
*Naturæ Donum* graved above.  
When o'er her mellow notes he ran,  
And his wild mountain chant began,  
Then first was noted in his eye  
A gleam of native energy.

**Old David.****THE TENTH BARD'S SONG.**

Old David rose ere it was day,  
And climbed old Wonfell's wizard brace;  
Looked round, with visage grim and sour,  
O'er Ettrick woods and Eskdale-moor.  
An outlaw from the south he came,  
And Ludlow was his father's name;  
His native land had used him ill,  
And Scotland bore him no good-will.

As fixed he stood, in sullen scorn,  
Regardless of the streaks of morn.  
Old David spied, on Wonfell cone,  
A fairy band come riding on.  
A lovelier troop was never seen;  
Their steeds were white, their doublets green  
Their faces shone like opening morn,  
And bloomed like roses on the thorn.  
At every flowing mane was hung  
A silver bell that lightly rung;  
That sound, borne on the breeze away,  
Oft set the mountaineer to pray.

Old David crept close in the heath,  
Scarce moved a limb, scarce drew a breath;  
But as the tinkling sound came nigh,  
Old David's heart beat wondrous high.  
He thought of riding on the wind;  
Of leaving hawk and henn behind;

Of sailing lightly o'er the sea,  
In mussel shell, to Germany ;  
Of revel raids by dale and down ;  
Of lighting torches at the moon ;  
Or through the sounding spheres to sing,  
Borne on the fiery meteor's wing :  
Of dancing 'neath the moonlight sky ;  
Of sleeping in the dew-cup's eye.  
And then he thought—O ! dread to tell !—  
Of tithes the fairies paid to hell !

David turned up a reverend eye,  
And fixed it on the morning sky ;  
He knew a mighty One lived there,  
That sometimes heard a warrior's prayer—  
No word, save one, could David say ;  
Old David had not learned to pray.

Scarce will a Scotsman yet regard  
What David saw, and what he heard.  
He heard their horses snort and tread,  
And every word the riders said ;  
While green portmanteaus, long and low,  
Lay bended o'er each saddle-bow.  
A lovely maiden rode between,  
Whom David judged the Fairy Queen ;  
But strange ! he heard her moans resound,  
And saw her feet with fetters bound.

Fast spur they on through bush and brake ;  
To Ettrick woods their course they take.  
Old David followed *still* in view,  
*Till near the Lochilaw they drew ;*

There, in a deep and wondrous dell,  
Where wandering sunbeam never fell,  
Where noontide breezes never blew,  
From flowers to drink the morning dew ;  
There, underneath the sylvan shade,  
The fairies' spacious bower was made.  
Its rampart was the tangling sloe,  
The bending briar, and mistletoe ;  
And o'er its roof the crooked oak  
Waved wildly from the frowning rock.

This wondrous bower, this haunted dell,  
The forest shepherd shunned as hell !  
When sound of fairies' silver horn  
Came on the evening breezes borne,  
Homeward he fled, nor made a stand,  
Thinking the spirits hard at hand.  
But when he heard the eldritch swell  
Of giggling laugh and bridle bell,  
Or saw the riders troop along,  
His orisons were loud and strong,  
His household fare he yielded free  
To this mysterious company,  
The fairest maid his cot within  
Resigned with awe and little din  
True he might weep, but nothing say,  
For none durst say the fairies nay.

Old David hasted home that night,  
A wondering and a wearied wight.  
Seven sons he had, alert and keen,  
Had all in Border battles been ;

Had wielded brand, and bent the bow,  
For those who sought their overthrow.  
Their hearts were true, their arms were strong,  
Their faulchions keen, their arrows long ;  
The race of fairies they denied—  
No fairies kept the English side.

Our yeomen on their armour threw  
Their brands of steel and bows of yew,  
Long arrows at their backs they sling,  
Fledged from the Snowdon eagle's wing,  
And boun' away brisk as the wind,  
The sire before, the sons behind.

That evening fell so sweetly still,  
So mild on lonely moor and hill,  
The little genii of the fell  
Forsook the purple heather-bell,  
And all their dripping beds of dew,  
In wind-flower, thyme, and violet blue ;  
Aloft their viewless looms they heave,  
And dew-webs round the helmets weave.  
The waning moon her lustre threw  
Pale round her throne of softened blue ;  
Her circuit round the southland sky  
Was languid, low, and quickly bye ;  
Leaning on cloud so faint and fair,  
And cradled on the golden air,  
Modest and pale as maiden bride,  
She sunk upon the trembling tide.

What late in daylight proved a jest,  
*Was now the doubt* of every breast.

That fairies *were*, was not disputed ;  
But *what* they were was greatly doubted.  
Each argument was guarded well,  
With " if," and " should," and " who can tell."

" Sure He that made majestic man,  
And framed the world's stupendous plan ;  
Who placed on high the steady pole,  
And sowed the stars that round it roll ;  
And made that sky, so large and blue—  
Had power to make a fairy too."

The sooth to say, each valiant core  
Knew feelings never felt before.  
Oft had they darned the midnight brake,  
Fearless, of aught save bog and lake ;  
But now the nod of sapling fir,  
The heath-cock's loud exulting whirr,  
The cry of hern from sedgy pool,  
Or airy bleeter's rolling howl,  
Came fraught with more dismaying dread  
Than warder's horn, or warrior's tread.

Just as the gloom of midnight fell  
They reached the fairies' lonely dell.  
O Heavens ! that dell was dark as death !  
Perhaps the pit-fall yawned beneath !  
Perhaps that lane that winded low,  
Led to a nether world of woe !  
But stern necessity's control  
Resistless sways the human soul.

The bows are bent, the tinders smoke  
With fire by sword struck from the rock.  
Old David held the torch before ;  
His right hand heaved a dread claymore,  
Whose Rippon edge he meant to try  
On the first fairy met his eye.  
Above his head his brand was raised ;  
Above his head the taper blazed ;  
A sterner or a ghastlier sight,  
Ne'er entered bower at dead of night.  
Below each lifted arm was seen  
The barbed point of arrow keen,  
Which waited but the twang of bow  
To fly like lightning on the foe.  
Slow move they on, with steady eye,  
Resolved to conquer or to die.

At length they spied a massive door,  
Deep in a nook, unseen before ;  
And by it slept, on wicker chair,  
A sprite of dreadful form and air.  
His grisly beard flowed round his throat,  
Like shaggy hair of mountain goat  
His open jaws and visage grim,  
His half-shut eye so deadly dim,  
Made David's blood to's bosom rush,  
And his gray hair his helmet brush.  
He squared, and made his faulchion wheel  
Around his back from head to heel ;  
Then, rising tiptoe, struck amain—  
Down fell the sleeper's head in twain ;  
And springing blood, in veil of smoke,  
*Whizzed high against the bending oak.*



“ By Heaven !” said George, with jocund air,  
“ Father, if all the fairies there  
Are of the same materials made,  
Let them beware the Rippon blade !”  
A ghastly smile was seen to play  
O'er David's visage, stern and gray ;  
He hoped, and feared ; but ne'er till then  
Knew whether he fought with sprites or men.

The massy door they next unlock,  
That oped to hall beneath the rock,  
In which new wonders met the eye :  
The room was ample, rude, and high,  
The arches caverned, dark, and torn,  
On Nature's rifted columns borne ;  
Of moulding rude the embrasure,  
And all the wild entablature ;  
And far o'er roof and architrave.  
The ivy's ringlets bend and wave.  
In each abrupt recess was seen  
A couch of heath and rushes green ;  
While every alcove's sombre hue,  
Was gemmed with drops of midnight dew.

Why stand our heroes still as death,  
Nor muscle move, nor heave a breath ?  
See how the sire his torch has lowered,  
And bends recumbent o'er his sword !  
The arcubalister has thrown  
His threatening, thirsty arrows down !  
Struck in one moment, all the band  
Entranced like moveless statues stand !

Enchantment sure arrests the spear,  
And stints the warrior's bold career ?

List, list, what mellow angel-sound  
Distils from yonder gloom profound !  
'Tis not the note of gathering shell,  
Of fairy horn, nor silver bell !  
No, 'tis the lute's mellifluous swell,  
Mixed with a maiden's voice so clear,  
The flitting bats flock round to hear !

Só wildly o'er the vault it rung,  
That song, if in the green-wood sung,  
Would draw the fays of wood and plain  
To kiss the lips that poured the strain.  
The lofty pine would listening lean ;  
The wild birch wave her tresses green ;  
And larks, that rose the dawn to greet,  
Drop lifeless at the singer's feet.  
The air was old, the measure slow,  
The words were plain, but words of woe.

Soft died the strain ; the warriors stand,  
Nor rested lance, nor lifted brand,  
But listening bend, in hopes again  
To hear that sweetly plaintive strain.  
'Tis gone ! and each uplifts his eye,  
As waked from dream of ecstasy.

Why stoops young Owen's gilded crest ?  
Why heave those groans from Owen's breast ?  
While kinsmen's eyes in rapture speak,  
*Why steals the tear o'er Owen's cheek ?*

That melting song, that song of pain,  
Was sung to Owen's favourite strain ;  
The words were new, but that sweet lay  
Had Owen heard in happier day.

Fast press they on ; in close-set row,  
Winded the lab'rinth far and low,  
Till, in the cave's extremest bound.  
Arrayed in sea-green silk, they found  
Five beauteous dames, all fair and young ;  
And she, who late so sweetly sung,  
Sat leaning o'er a silver lute,  
Pale with despair, with terror mute.

When back her auburn locks she threw,  
And raised her eyes so lovely blue,  
'Twas like the woodland rose in dew !  
That look was soft as morning flower,  
And mild as sunbeam through the shower.  
Old David gazed, and weened the while,  
He saw a suffering angel smile ;  
Weened he had heard a seraph sing,  
And sounds of a celestial string.  
But when young Owen met her view,  
She shrieked, and to his bosom flew :  
For, oft before, in Moodlaw bowers,  
They two had passed the evening hours.  
She was the loveliest mountain maid  
That e'er by grove or riv'let strayed ;  
Old Raeburn's child, the fairest flower  
That ever bloomed in Eskdale-moor ;  
'Twas she the sire that morn had seen,  
And judged to be the Fairy Queen ;

'Twas she who framed the artless lay  
That stopt the warriors on their way.

Close to her lover's breast she clung,  
And round his neck enraptured hung :--  
" O my dear Owen ! haste and tell,  
What caused you dare this lonely dell,  
And seek your maid, at midnight still,  
Deep in the bowels of the hill ?  
Hear in this dark and drear abode,  
By all deserted but my God,  
Must I have reft the life he gave,  
Or lived in shame a villain's slave.  
I was, at midnight's murkest hour,  
Stole from my father's stately tower,  
And never thought again to view  
The sun or sky's ethereal blue ;  
But since the first of Border-men  
Has found me in this dismal den,  
I to his arms for shelter fly,  
With him to live, or with him die."

How glowed brave Owen's manly face  
While in that lady's kind embrace !  
Warm tears of joy his utterance staid—  
" O, my loved Ann !" was all he said.  
Though well they loved, her high estate  
Caused Owen aye aloof to wait ;  
And watch her bower, beside the rill,  
When twilight rocked the breezes still,  
And waked the music of the grove  
To hymn the *vesper* song of love.

Then underneath the green-wood bough,  
Oft had they breathed the tender vow.

With Ann of Raeburn here they found  
The flowers of all the Border round ;  
From whom the strangest tale they hear,  
That e'er astounded warrior's ear,  
'Twould make even Superstition blush,  
And all her tales of spirits hush.

That night the spoilers ranged the vale,  
By Dryhope towers, and Meggat-dale :  
Ah ! little trowed the fraudulent train,  
They ne'er should see their wealth again !  
Their lemans, and their mighty store,  
For which they nightly toils had bore  
Full twenty Autumn moons and more !  
They little deemed, when morning dawned,  
To meet the deadly Rippon brand ;  
And only find, at their return.  
In their loved cave an early urn.  
Ill suits it simple bard to tell  
Of bloody work that there befell :  
He lists not deeds of death to sing,  
Of splintered spear, and twanging string,  
Of piercing arrow's purpled wing,  
How faulchions flash, and helmets ring.  
Not one of all that prowling band,  
So long the terror of the land,  
Not one escaped their deeds to tell ;  
All in the winding lab'rinth fell.  
The spoil was from the cave conveyed,  
Where in a heap the dead were laid ;

The outer cave our yeomen fill,  
And left them in the hollow hill.

But still that dell, and bourn beneath,  
The forest shepherd dreads as death.  
Not there at evening dares he stray,  
Though love impatient points the way ;  
Though throbs his heart the maid to see,  
That's waiting by the trysting tree.

Even the old sire, so reverend gray,  
Ere turns the scale of night and day,  
Oft breathes the short and ardent prayer,  
That Heaven may guard his footsteps there ;  
His eyes, meantime, so dim with dread,  
Scarce ken the turf his foot must tread.  
For still 'tis told, and still believed,  
That there the spirits were deceived,  
And maidens from their grasp retrieved :  
That this they still preserve in mind,  
And watch, when sighs the midnight wind,  
To reck their rage on humankind.

Old David, for this doughty raid,  
Was keeper of the forest made ;  
A trooper he of gallant fame,  
And first of all the Laidlaw name.

E'er since, in Ettrick's glens so green,  
Spirits, though there, are seldom seen ;  
And fears of elf, and fairy raid,  
Have like a *morning dream* decayed,

The bare-foot maid, of rosy hue,  
Dares from the heath-flower brush the dew,  
To meet her love in moon-light still,  
By flowery den or tinkling rill ;  
And well dares she till midnight stay,  
Among the coils of fragrant hay.

True, some weak shepherds, gone astray,  
As fell the dusk of Hallow-day,  
Have heard the tinkling sound aloof,  
And gentle tread of horse's hoof ;  
And flying swifter than the wind,  
Left all their scattered flocks behind.

True, when the evening tales are told,  
When winter nights are dark and cold,  
The boy dares not to barn repair  
Alone, to say his evening prayer ;  
Nor dare the maiden ope the door,  
Unless her lover walk before ;  
Then well can counterfeit the fright,  
If star-beam on the water light ;  
And to his breast in terror cling,  
For "such a dread and dangerous thing !"

O, Ettrick ! shelter of my youth !  
Thou sweetest glen of all the south !  
Thy fairy tales, and songs of yore,  
Shall never fire my bosom more.  
Thy winding glades, and mountains wild,  
The scenes that pleased me when a child,

Each verdant vale, and flowery lea,  
Still in my midnight dreams I see ;  
And waking oft, I sigh for thee ;  
Thy hapless bard, though forced to roam,  
Afar from thee without a home,  
Still there his glowing breast shall turn,  
Till thy green bosom fold his urn :  
Then, underneath thy mountain stone,  
Shall sleep unnoticed and unknown,

---

When ceased the shepherd's simple lay,  
With careless mien he lounged away ;  
No bow he deigned, nor anxious looked  
How the gay throng their minstrel brooked :  
No doubt within his bosom grew,  
That to his skill the prize was due.  
Well might he hope, for while he sung,  
Louder and louder plaudits rung ;  
And when he ceased his numbers wild,  
Fair Royalty approved and smiled.  
Long had the bard, with hopes elate,  
Sung to the low, the gay, the great ;  
And once had dared, at flatterer's call,  
To tune his harp in Branhholm hall ;  
But nor his notes of soothing sound,  
Nor zealous word of bard renowned,  
Might those persuade, that worth could be  
Inherent in such mean degree.  
But when the smile of Sovereign fair  
Attested genuine nature there,



Throbb'd high with rapture every breast,  
And all his merit stood confest.

Different the next the herald nam'd ;  
Warrior he was, in battle maim'd,  
When Lennox, on the downs of Kyle,  
O'erthrew Maconnel and Argyle.  
Unable more the sword to wield  
With dark Clan-Alpine in the field,  
Or rouse the dun deer from her den  
With fierce Macfarlane and his men ;  
He strove to earn a minstrel name,  
And fondly nurs'd the sacred flame.  
Warm was his heart, and bold his strain ;  
Wild fancies in his moody brain  
Gamboll'd, unbridled, and unbound,  
Lured by a shade, decoy'd by sound,

In tender age, when mind was free,  
As standing by his nurse's knee,  
He heard a tale, so passing strange,  
Of injured spirit's cool revenge,  
It chill'd his heart with blasting dread,  
Which never more that bosom fled.  
When passion's flush had fled his eye,  
And gray hairs told that youth was bye,  
Still quaked his heart at bush or stone,  
As wandering in the gloom alone.

Where foxes roam, and eagles rave,  
And dark woods round Ben-Lomond wave,  
Once on a night, a night of dread !  
He held convention with the dead ;

Brought warnings to the house of death,  
And tidings from a world beneath.

Loud blew the blast—the evening came,  
The way was long, the minstrel lame ;  
The mountain's side was dorn with oak,  
Darkened with pine, and ribbed with rock ;  
Blue billows round its base were driven,  
Its top was steeped in waves of heaven.  
The wood, the wind, the billows moan,  
All spoke in language of their own,  
But too well to our minstrel known.  
Wearied, bewildered, in amaze,  
Hymning in heart the Virgin's praise,  
A cross he framed, of birchen bough,  
And 'neath that cross he laid him low ;  
Hid by the heath, and Highland plaid,  
His old harp in his bosom laid.  
O ! when the winds that wandered by,  
Sung on her breast their lullaby,  
How thrilled the tones his bosom through,  
And deeper, holier, poured his vow !

No sleep was his—he raised his eye,  
To note if dangerous place was nigh.  
There columned rocks, abrupt and rude,  
Hung o'er his gateless solitude :  
The muffled sloe, and tangling brier,  
Precluded freak or entrance here ;  
But yonder oped a little path,  
O'ershadowed, deep, and dark as death.  
Trembling, he groped around his lair  
*For mountain ash, but none was there.*

Teeming with forms, his terror grew ;  
Heedful he watched, for well he knew,  
That in that dark and devious dell  
Some lingering ghost or sprite must dwell  
So as he trowed, so it befell.

The stars were wrapt in curtain gray,  
The blast of midnight died away ;  
'Twas just the hour of solemn dread,  
When walk the spirits of the dead :  
Rustled the leaves with gentle motion,  
Groaned his chilled soul in deep devotion.  
The lake-fowl's wake was heard no more ;  
The wave forgot to brush the shore ;  
Hushed was the bleat, on moor and hill ;  
The wandering clouds of heaven stood still.

What heart could bear, what eye could meet,  
The spirits in their lone retreat !  
Rustled again the darksome dell ;  
Straight on the minstrel's vision fell  
A trembling and unwonted light,  
That showed the phantoms to his sight.

Came first a slender female form,  
Pale as the moon in Winter storm ;  
A babe of sweet simplicity  
Clung to her breast as pale as she,  
And aye she sung its lullaby.  
That cradle-song of the phantom's child,  
O ! but it was soothing, holy, and wild !  
*But, O ! that song can ill be sung*  
*By Lowland bard, or Lowland tongue.*

**The Spectre's Cradle Song.**

Hush, my bonny babe ! hush, and be still !  
Thy mother's arms shall shield thee from ill.  
Far have I borne thee, in sorrow and pain,  
To drink the breeze of the world again.  
The dew shall moisten thy brow so meek,  
And the breeze of midnight fan thy cheek,  
And soon shall we rest in the bow of the hill ;  
Hush, my bonny babe ! hush, and be still !  
For thee have I travelled, in weakness and woe,  
The world above and the world below.  
My heart was soft, and it fell in the snare :  
Thy father was cruel, but thou wert fair.  
I sinned, I sorrowed, I died for thee ;  
Smile, my bonny babe ! smile on me !

See yon thick clouds of murky hue ;  
Yon star that peeps from its window blue ;  
Above yon clouds, that wander far,  
Away, above yon little star,  
There's a home of peace that shall soon be thine,  
And there shalt thou see thy Father and mine.  
The flowers of the world shall bud and decay,  
The trees of the forest be weeded away ;  
But there shalt *thou* bloom for ever and aye.  
The time will come, I shall follow thee ;  
But long, long hence that time shall be :  
O weep not thou for thy mother's ill ;  
Hush, my bonny babe ! hush, and be still !

Slow moved she on with dignity,  
Nor bush, nor brake, nor rock, nor tree,  
Her footsteps staid—o'er cliff so bold,  
Where scarce the roe her foot could hold,  
Stately she wandered, firm and free,  
Singing her softened lullaby.

Three naked phantoms next came on ;  
They beckoned low, passed, and were gone,  
Then came a troop of sheeted dead,  
With shade of chieftain at their head ;  
And with our bard, in brake forlorn,  
Held converse till the break of morn.  
Their ghostly rites, their looks, their mould,  
Or words to man, he never told ;  
But much he learned of mystery,  
Of what was past, and what should be.  
Thenceforth he troubles oft divined,  
And scarcely held his perfect mind ;  
Yet still the song, admired when young,  
He loved, and that in Court he sung.

### *The Fate of Macgregor.*

#### THE ELEVENTH BARD'S SONG.

“ Macgregor, Macgregor, remember our foemen ;  
The moon rises broad from the brow of Ben-Lomond  
The clans are impatient, and chide thy delay ;  
Arise ! let us bound to Glen-Lyon away.”—

*Stern scowled the Macgregor, then silent and sullen  
He turned his red eye to the braes of Strathfillan ;*

"Go, Malcolm, to sleep, let the clans be dismissed ;  
The Campbells this night for Macgregor must rest."—

"Macgregor, Macgregor, our scouts have been flying,  
Three days, round the hills of M'Nab and Glen-Lyon ;  
Of riding and running such tidings they bear,  
We must meet them at home else they'll quickly be  
here."—

"The Campbell may come, as his promises bind him,  
And haughty M'Nab, with his giants behind him ;  
This night I am bound to relinquish the fray,  
And do what it freezes my vitals to say.  
Forgive me, dear brother, this horror of mind ;  
Thou knowest in the strife I was never behind,  
Nor ever receded a foot from the van,  
Or blenched at the ire or the prowess of man :  
But I've sworn by the cross, by my God, and my all,  
An oath which I cannot, and dare not recall—  
Ere the shadows of midnight fall east from the pile,  
To meet with a spirit this night in Glen-Gyle.

"Last night, in my chamber, all thoughtful and lone,  
I called to remembrance some deeds I had done,  
When entered a lady, with visage so wan,  
And looks, such as never were fastened on man.  
I knew her, O brother ! I knew her too well !  
Of that once fair dame such a tale I could tell  
As would thrill thy bold heart ; but how long she re-  
mained,

So racked was my spirit, my bosom so pained,  
I knew not—but ages seemed short to the while,  
*Though proffer the Highlands, nay, all the green isle.*

With length of existence no man can enjoy,  
The same to endure, the dread proffer I'd fly !  
The thrice-threatened pangs of last night to forego,  
Macgregor would dive to the mansions below.  
Despairing and mad, to futurity blind,  
The present to shun, and some respite to find,  
I swore, ere the shadow fell east from the pile,  
To meet her alone by the brook of Glen-Gyle.

“ She told me, and turned my chilled heart to a stone  
The glory and name of Macgregor were gone :  
That the pine, which for ages had shed a bright halo  
Afar on the mountains of Highland Glen-Falo,  
Should wither and fall ere the turn of yon moon,  
Smit through by the canker of hated Colquhoun :  
That a feast on Macgregors each day should be common  
For years, to the eagles of Lennox and Lomond.

“ A parting embrace, in one moment, she gave :  
Her breath was a furnace, her bosom the grave !  
Then flitting elusive, she said, with a frown,  
‘ The mighty Macgregor shall yet be my own ! ’—

“ Macgregor, thy fancies are wild as the wind ;  
The dreams of the night have disordered thy mind.  
Come, buckle thy panoply—march to the field—  
See, brother, how hacked are thy helmet and shield !  
Ay, that was M'Nab, in the height of his pride,  
When the lions of Dochart stood firm by his side.  
This night the proud chief his presumption shall rue ;  
Rise, brother, these chinks in his heart-blood will glue ;  
*Thy fantasies frightful shall flit on the wing,*  
*When loud with thy bugle Glen-Lyon shall ring.*—

Like glimpse of the moon through the storm of the  
night,

Macgregor's red eye shed one sparkle of light :  
It faded—it darkened—he shuddered—he sighed—  
“ No ! not for the universe ! ” low he replied.

Away went Macgregor, but went not alone :  
To watch the dread rendezvous, Malcolm has gone.  
They oared the broad Lomond, so still and serene,  
And deep in her bosom, how awful the scene !  
O'er mountains inverted the blue waters curled,  
And rocked them on skies of a far nether world.

All silent they went, for the time was approaching ;  
The moon the blue zenith already was touching ;  
No foot was abroad on the forest or hill,  
No sound but the lullaby sung by the rill :  
Young Malcolm at distance couched, trembling the  
while—  
Macgregor stood lone by the brook of Glen-Gyle.

Few minutes had passed, ere they spied on the stream  
A skiff sailing light, where a lady did seem ;  
Her sail was the web of the gossamer's loom,  
The glow-worm her wakelight, the rainbow her boom ;  
A dim rayless beam was her prow and her mast,  
Like wold-fire, at midnight, that glares on the waste.  
Though rough was the river with rock and cascade,  
No torrent, no rock, her velocity staid ;  
She wimpled the water to weather and lee,  
And heaved as if borne on the waves of the sea.  
Mute Nature was roused in the bounds of the glen ;  
*The wild deer of Gairtney* abandoned his den,



Fled panting away, over river and isle,  
Nor once turned his eye to the brook of Glen-Gyle.

The fox fled in terror ; the eagle awoke  
As slumbering he dozed on the shelfe of the rock ;  
Astonished, to hide in the moon-beam he flew  
And screwed the night-heaven till lost in the blue.

Young Malcolm beheld the pale lady approach,  
The chieftain salute her, and shrink from her touch.  
He saw the Macgregor kneel down on the plain,  
As begging for something he could not obtain ;  
She raised him indignant, derided his stay,  
Then bore him on board, set her sail, and away.

Though fast the red bark down the river did glide  
Yet faster ran Malcolm adown by its side ;  
“ Macgregor ! Macgregor ! ” he bitterly cried ;  
“ Macgregor ! Macgregor ! ” the echoes replied.  
He struck at the lady, but, strange though it seem,  
His sword only fell on the rocks and the stream ;  
But the groans from the boat, that ascended amain,  
Were groans from a bosom in horror and pain.  
They reached the dark lake, and bore lightly away—  
Macgregor is vanished for ever and aye !



Abrupt as glance of morning sun.  
The bard of Lomond's lay is done.  
Loves not the swain, from path of dew,  
At morn the golden orb to view,

Rise broad and yellow from the main,  
While scarce a shadow lines the plain ;  
Well knows he then the gathering cloud  
Shall all his noontide glories shroud,—  
Like smile of morn before the rain,  
Appeared the minstrel's mounting strain.  
As easy inexperienced hind,  
Who sees not coming rains and wind,  
The beacon of the dawning hour,  
Nor notes the blink before the shower,  
Astonished, 'mid his open grain,  
Sees round him pour the sudden rain—  
So looked the still attentive throng,  
When closed at once Macfarlane's song.

Time was it—when he 'gan to tell  
Of spectre stern, and barge of hell ;  
Loud, and more loud, the minstrel sung ;  
Loud, and more loud, the chords he rung ;  
Wild grew his looks, for well he knew,  
The scene was dread, the tale was true ;  
And ere Loch-Ketturine's wave was won,  
Faltered his voice, his breath was done.  
He raised his brown hand to his brow,  
To veil his eye's enraptured glow ;  
Flung back his locks of silver gray,  
Lifted his crutch, and limped away.

The bard of Clyde stepped next in view ;  
Tall was his form, his harp was new ;  
Brightened his dark eye as he sung ;  
A stammer *fluttered* on his tongue ;

A captain in the wars was he,  
And sprung of noble pedigree.

**Earl Walter.**

THE TWELFTH BARD'S SONG.

“ What makes Earl Walter pace the wood  
In the wan light of the moon ?  
Why altered is Earl Walter's mood  
So strangely, and so soon ? ” —

“ It is his lot to fight a knight  
Whom man could never tame,  
To-morrow; in his Sovereign's sight,  
Or bear perpetual shame. ” —

“ Go warn the Clyde, go warn the Ayr,  
Go warn them suddenly,  
If none will fight for Earl Walter,  
Some one may fight for me. ” —

“ Now hold your tongue, my daughter dear.  
Now hold your tongue for shame !  
For never shall my son Walter,  
Disgrace his father's name.

“ Shall ladies tell, and minstrels sing,  
How lord of Scottish blood  
By proxy fought before his King ?  
No, never ! by the rood ! ” —

Earl Walter rose ere it was day,  
For battle made him boun' ;  
Earl Walter mounted his bonny gray,  
And rode to Stirling town.

Old Hamilton from the tower came down,  
" Go saddle a steed for me,  
And I'll away to Stirling town,  
This deadly bout to see.

" Mine eye is dim, my locks are gray,  
My cheek is furred and wan ;  
Ah, me ! but I have seen the day  
I feared not single man !

" Bring me my steed," said Hamilton ;  
" Darcie his vaunts may rue ;  
Whoever slays my only son  
Must fight the father too.

" Whoever fights my noble son  
May foine the best he can ;  
Whoever braves Wat Hamilton,  
Shall know he braves a man."—

And there was riding in belt and brand,  
And running o'er holt and lea ?  
For all the lords of fair Scotland  
Came there the fight to see.

And squire, and groom, and baron bold,  
Trooping in *thousands* came,

And many a hind, and warrior old,  
And many a lovely dame.

When good Earl Walter rode the ring,  
Upon his mettled gray,  
There was none so ready as our good King  
To bid that Earl good day.

For one so gallant and so young,  
Oh ! many a heart beat high ;  
And no fair eye in all the throng,  
Nor rosy cheek, was dry.

But up then spoke the King's daughter,  
Fair Margaret was her name—  
“ If we should lose brave Earl Walter,  
My sire is sore to blame.

“ Forbid the fight, my liege, I pray,  
Upon my bended knee.”—  
“ Daughter, I'm loth to say you nay ;  
It cannot, must not be.”—

“ Proclaim it round,” the princess cried,  
“ Proclaim it suddenly ;  
If none will fight for Earl Walter,  
Some one may fight for me.

“ In Douglas-dale I have a tower,  
With many a holm and hill,  
I'll give them all, and ten times more,  
To him will Darcie kill.”—

But up then spoke old Hamilton,  
And doffed his bonnet blue ;  
In his sunk eye the tear-drop shone,  
And his grey locks o'er it flew :—

“ Cease, cease, thou lovely royal maid,  
Small cause hast thou for pain ;  
Wat Hamilton shall have no aid  
'Gainst lord of France or Spain.

“ I love my boy ; but should he fly,  
Or other for him fight,  
Heaven grant that first his parent's eye  
May set in endless night !”—

Young Margaret blushed, her weeping staid,  
And quietly looked on :  
Now Margaret was the fairest maid  
On whom the daylight shone.

Her eye was like the star of love  
That blinks across the evening dun ;  
The locks that waved that eye above,  
Like light clouds curling round the sun.

When Darcie entered in the ring,  
A shudder round the circle flew :  
Like men who from a serpent spring,  
They startled at the view.

His look so fierce, his crest so high,  
His *belts and bands* of gold,

And the glances of his charger's eye  
Were dreadful to behold.

But when he saw Earl Walter's face,  
So rosy and so young,  
He frowned, and sneered with haughty grace,  
And round disdainful flung.

"What, dost thou turn my skill to sport,  
And break thy jests on me?  
Think'st thou I sought the Scottish court  
To play with boys like thee?

"Fond youth, go home and learn to ride;  
For pity, get thee gone;  
Tilt with the girls and boys of Clyde,  
And boast of what thou'st done.

"If Darcie's spear but touch thy breast,  
It flies thy body through;  
If Darcie's sword come o'er thy crest,  
It cleaves thy head in two."

"I came not here to vaunt, Darcie;  
I came not here to scold;  
It ill befits a knight like thee  
Such proud discourse to hold.

"To-morrow boast, amid the throng,  
Of deeds which thou hast done;  
To-day restrain thy saucy tongue;  
Rude blusterer, come on!"

Rip went the spurs in either steed,  
To different posts they sprung ;  
Quivered each spear o'er charger's head ;  
Forward each warrior hung.

The horn blew once—the horn blew twice—  
Oh ! many a heart beat high !  
'Twas silence all !—the horn blew thrice—  
Dazzled was every eye.

Hast thou not seen, from heaven, in ire,  
The eagle swift descend ?  
Hast thou not seen the sheeted fire  
The lowering darkness rend ?

Not faster glides the eagle gray  
Adown the yielding wind ;  
Not faster bears the bolt away,  
Leaving the storm behind ;

Than flew the warriors on their way,  
With full suspended breath ;  
Than flew the warriors on their way  
Across the field of death.

So fierce the shock, so loud the clang,  
The gleams of fire were seen ;  
The rocks and towers of Stirling rang  
And the red blood fell between.

Earl Walter's gray was borne aside,  
Lord Darcie's black held on.



“ Oh ! ever alack,” fair Margaret cried,  
“ The brave Earl Walter’s gone !”  
“ Oh ! ever alack,” the King replied,  
“ That ever the deed was done !”—

Earl Walter’s broken corslet doffed,  
He turned with lightened eye ;  
His glancing spear he raised aloft,  
And seemed to threat the sky.

Lord Darcie’s spear, aimed at his breast,  
He parried dext’rously ;  
Then caught him rudely by the wrist,  
Saying, “ Warrior, come with me !”—

Lord Darcie drew, Lord Darcie threw ;  
But threw and drew in vain ;  
Lord Darcie drew, Lord Darcie threw,  
And spurred his black amain.

Down came Lord Darcie, casque and brand  
Loud rattled on the clay ;  
Down came Earl Walter, hand in hand,  
And head to head they lay.

Lord Darcie’s steed turned to his lord,  
And trembling stood behind ;  
But off Earl Walter’s dapple scoured  
Far fleetier than the wind ;  
Nor stop, nor stay, nor gate, nor ford,  
Could make her look behind.

O'er holt, o'er hill, o'er slope and slack,  
She sought her native stall ;  
She liked not Darcie's doughty black,  
Nor Darcie's spear at all.

“ Even go thy ways,” Earl Walter cried,  
“ Since better may not be ;  
I'll trust my life with weapon tried,  
But never again with thee.

“ Rise up, Lord Darcie, sey thy brand,  
And fling thy mail away ;  
For foot to foot, and hand to hand,  
We'll now decide the day.”—

So said, so done ; their helms they flung,  
Their doublets linked and sheen ;  
And hauberk, armlet, cuirass, rung  
Promiscuous on the green.

“ Now, Darcie ! now thy dreaded name,  
That oft has chilled a foe,  
Thy hard-earned honours, and thy fame,  
Depend on every blow.

“ Sharp be thine eye, and firm thy hand ;  
Thy heart unmoved remain ;  
For never was the Scottish brand  
Upreared, and reared in vain.”—

“ Now do thy best, young Hamilton,  
Rewarded shalt thou be ;

Thy King, thy country, and thy kin,  
All, all depend on thee !

“ Thy father's heart yearns for his son,  
The ladies' cheeks grow wan ;  
Wat Hamilton ! Wat Hamilton !  
Now prove thyself a man ! ”

“ What makes Lord Darcie shift and dance  
So fast around the plain ?  
What makes Lord Darcie strike and lance,  
As passion fired his brain ?

“ Lay on, lay on,” said Hamilton ;  
“ Thou bear'st thee boist'rously ;  
If thou shouldst pelt till day be done,  
Thy weapon I defy.

“ What makes Lord Darcie shift and wear  
So fast around the plain ?  
Why are Lord Darcie's hollands fair  
All striped with crimson grain ? ” —

The first blow that Earl Walter made,  
He clove his whiskered chin.

“ Beshrew thy heart,” Lord Darcie said,  
“ Ye sharply do begin ! ”

The next blow that Earl Walter made,  
Quite through the gare it ran.

“ Now, by my faith,” Lord Darcie said,  
“ That's stricken like a man.

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The third blow that Earl Walter made,  
It pierced his lordly side.  
“ Now, by my troth,” Lord Darcie said,  
“ Thy marks are ill to bide.”

Lord Darcie's sword he forced a-hight,  
And tripped him on the plain.  
“ O, ever alack,” then cried the knight,  
“ I ne'er shall rise again !”

When good Earl Walter saw he grew  
So pale, and lay so low,  
Away his brace of swords he threw,  
And raised his fainting foe.

Then rang the list with shouts of joy,  
Loud and more loud they grew,  
And many a bonnet to the sky  
And many a coif they threw.

The tear stood in the father's eye,—  
He wiped his aged brow,—  
“ Give me thy hand, my gallant boy !  
I knew thee not till now.

“ My liege, my King, this is my son  
Whom I present to thee ;  
Nor would I change Wat Hamilton  
For all the lads I see !”

“ Welcome, my friend and warrior old !  
This gallant *son of thine*

Is much too good for baron bold,  
He must be son of mine !

“ For he shall wed my daughter dear,  
The flower of fair Scotland ;  
The badge of honour he shall wear,  
And sit at my right hand.

“ And he shall have the lands of Kyle,  
And royal bounds of Clyde ;  
And he shall have all Arran's Isle  
To dower his royal bride.”

The princess smiled, and sore was flushed,  
O, but her heart was fain !  
And aye her cheek of beauty blushed  
Like rose-bud in the rain.

From this the Hamiltons of Clyde  
Their royal lineage draw ;  
And thus was won the fairest bride  
That Scotland ever saw !



When ceased the lay, the plaudits rung,  
Not for the bard, or song he sung ;  
But every eye with pleasure shone,  
And cast its smiles on one alone—  
That one was princely Hamilton !  
And well the gallant chief approved  
The bard who sung of sire beloved.

And pleased were all the court to see  
The minstrel hailed so courteously.

Again is every courtier's gaze  
Speaking suspense, and deep amaze ;  
The bard was stately, dark and stern,—  
'Twas Drummond from the moors of Ern.  
Tall was his frame, his forehead high,  
Still and mysterious was his eye ;  
His look was like a winter day,  
When storms and winds have sunk away.

Well versed was he in holy lore ;  
In cloistered dome the cowl he wore ;  
But, wearied with the eternal strain  
Of formal breviats, cold and vain,  
He wooed, in depth of Highland dale,  
The silver spring and mountain gale.

In gray Glen-Ample's forest deep,  
Hid from the rains and tempests' sweep,  
In bosom of an aged wood  
His solitary cottage stood.  
Its walls were bastioned, dark, and dorn,  
Dark was its roof of filmot fern,  
And dark the vista down the linn,  
But all was love and peace within.  
Religion, man's first friend and best,  
Was in that home a constant guest ;  
There, sweetly, every morn and even,  
Warm orisons were poured to Heaven :  
And every cliff *Glen-Ample* knew,  
And *green-wood* on her banks that grew,

In answer to his bounding string,  
Had learned the hymns of Heaven to sing ;  
With many a song of mystic lore,  
Rude as when sung in days of yore.

His were the snowy flocks that strayed  
Adown Glen-Airtney's forest glade ;  
And his the goat, and chestnut hind,  
Where proud Ben-Vorlich cleaves the wind :  
There oft, when suns of summer shone,  
The bard would sit, and muse alone,  
Of innocence, expelled by man ;  
Of nature's fair and wondrous plan ;  
Of the eternal throne sublime,  
Of visions seen in ancient time,  
Till his rapt soul would leave her home  
In visionary worlds to roam.  
Then would the mists that wandered bye  
Seem hovering spirits to his eye ;  
Then would the breeze's whistling sweep,  
Soft lulling in the cavern deep,  
Seem to the enthusiast's dreaming ear  
The words of spirits whispered near.

Loathed his firm soul the measured chime  
And florid films of modern rhyme ;  
No other lays became his tongue  
But those his rude forefathers sung.  
And when, by wandering minstrel warned,  
The mandate of his queen he learned,  
So much he prized the ancient strain,  
High hopes had he the prize to gain.

With modest, yet majestic mien,  
 He tuned his harp of solemn strain :  
 O list the tale, ye fair and young,  
 A lay so strange was never sung !

### Kilmeny.

#### THE THIRTEENTH BARD'S SONG.

Bonny Kilmeny gaed up the glen ;  
 But it wasna to meet Duneira's men,  
 Nor the rosy monk of the isle to see,  
 For Kilmeny was pure as pure could be.  
 It was only to hear the Yorlin sing,  
 And pu' the cress-flower round the spring ;  
 The scarlet hypp and the hindberrye,  
 And the nut that hang frae the hazel tree ;  
 For Kilmeny was pure as pure could be.  
 But lang may her minny look o'er the wa.'  
 And lang may she seek i' the green-wood shaw ;  
 And the laird of Duneira blame,  
 And lang, lang greet or Kilmeny come hame !

When many a day had come and fled,  
 When grief grew calm, and hope was dead,  
 When mass for Kilmeny's soul had been sung,  
 When the bedes-man had prayed, and the dead bell rung,  
 Late, late in a gloamin when all was still,  
 When the fringe was red on the westlin hill,  
 The wood was sere, the moon i' the wane,  
 The reek o' the cot hung over the plain,  
 Like a little wee cloud in the world its lane ;



When the ingle lowed with an eiry leme,  
Late, late in the gloamin Kilmeny came hame !

“ Kilmeny, Kilmeny, where have you been ?  
Lang hae we sought baith holt and den ;  
By linn, by ford, and green-wood tree,  
Yet you are halesome and fair to see.  
Where gat you that joup o' the lily scheen ?  
That bonny snood of the birk sae green ?  
And these roses, the fairest that ever were seen ?  
Kilmeny, Kilmeny, where have you been ? ”

Kilmeny looked up with a lovely grace,  
But nae smile was seen on Kilmeny's face ;  
As still was her look, and as still was her ee,  
As the stillness that lay on the emerant lea,  
Or the mist that sleeps on a waveless sea.  
For Kilmeny had been she knew not where,  
And Kilmeny had seen what she could not declare ;  
Kilmeny had been where the cock never crew,  
Where the rain never fell, and the wind never blew  
But it seemed as the harp of the sky had rung,  
And the airs of heaven played round her tongue,  
When she spake of the lovely forms she had seen,  
And a land where sin had never been ;  
A land of love, and a land of light,  
Withouten sun, or moon, or night ;  
Where the river swa'd a living stream,  
And the light a pure celestial beam :  
The land of vision it would seem,  
A still, an everlasting dream.

In yon green-wood there is a waik,  
And in that waik there is a wene,  
And in that wene there is a maik,  
That neither has flesh, blood, nor bane ;  
And down in yon green-wood he walks his lane.

In that green wene Kilmeny lay,  
Her bosom happed wi' the flowerets gay ;  
But the air was soft and the silence deep,  
And bonny Kilmeny fell sound asleep  
She kend nae mair, nor opened her ee,  
Till waked by the hymns of a far countrie.

She 'wakened on a couch of the silk sae slim,  
All striped wi' the bars of the rainbow's rim ;  
And lovely beings round were rife,  
Who erst had travelled mortal life ;  
And aye they smiled, and 'gan to speer,  
“ What spirit has brought this mortal here !”—

“ Lang have I journeyed the world wide,”  
A meek and reverend fere replied ;  
“ Baith night and day I have watched the fair,  
Eident a thousand years and mair.  
Yes, I have watched o'er ilk degree,  
Wherever blooms femenitye ;  
But sinless virgin, free of stain  
In mind and body, fand I nane.  
Never, since the banquet of time,  
Found I a virgin in her prime,  
Till late this bonny maiden I saw  
*As spotless as the morning snaw :*

And dear to Heaven the words of truth,  
And the praise of virtue frae beauty's mouth !  
And dear to the viewless forms of air,  
The minds that kythe as the body fair !

“ O, bonny Kilmeny ! free frae stain,  
If ever you seek the world again,  
That world of sin, of sorrow and fear,  
O, tell of the joys that are waiting here ;  
And tell of the signs you shall shortly see ;  
Of the times that are now, and the times that shall be.”—

They lifted Kilmeny, they led her away,  
And she walked in the light of a sunless day :  
The sky was a dome of crystal bright,  
The fountain of vision, and fountain of light :  
The emerald fields were of dazzling glow,  
And the flowers of everlasting blow.  
Then deep in the stream her body they laid.  
That her youth and beauty never might fade ;  
And they smiled on heaven, when they saw her lie  
In the stream of life that wandered bye.  
And she heard a song, she heard it sung,  
She kend not where ; but sae sweetly it rung,  
It fell on her ear like a dream of the morn  
“ O ! blest be the day Kilmeny was born !  
Now shall the land of the spirits see,  
Now shall it ken what a woman may be !  
The sun that shines on the world sae bright,  
A borrowed gleid frae the fountain of light ;  
And the moon that sleeks the sky sae dun,  
Like a gouden bow, or a beamless sun,

Shall wear away, and be seen nae mair,  
And the angels shall miss them travelling the air.  
But lang, lang after baith night and day,  
When the sun and the world have elyed away ;  
When the sinner has gane to his waesome doom,  
Kilmeny shall smile in eternal bloom !"—

They bore her away, she wist not how,  
For she felt not arm nor rest below ;  
But so swift they wained her through the light,  
'Twas like the motion of sound or sight ;  
They seemed to split the gales of air,  
And yet nor gale nor breeze was there.  
Unnumbered groves below them grew,  
They came, they past, and backward flew,  
Like floods of blossoms gliding on,  
In moment seen, in moment gone.  
O, never vales to mortal view  
Appeared like those o'er which they flew !  
That land to human spirits given,  
The lowermost vales of the storied heaven ;  
From thence they can view the world below,  
And heaven's blue gates with sapphires glow,  
More glory yet unmeet to know.

They bore her far to a mountain green,  
To see what mortal never had seen ;  
And they seated her high on a purple sward,  
And bade her heed what she saw and heard,  
And note the changes the spirits wrought,  
For now she lived in the land of thought.  
*She looked, and she saw nor sun nor skies,  
But a crystal dome of a thousand dies:*

She looked, and she saw nae land aright,  
But an endless whirl of glory and light :  
And radiant beings went and came  
Far swifter than wind, or the linked flame  
She hid her een frae the dazzling view ;  
She looked again, and the scene was new.

She saw a sun on a summer sky,  
And clouds of amber sailing bye ;  
A lovely land beneath her lay,  
And that land had glens and mountains gray ;  
And that land had valleys and hoary piles,  
And marled seas and a thousand isles ;  
Its fields were speckled, its forests green,  
And its lakes were all of the dazzling sheen,  
Like magic mirrors, where slumbering lay  
The sun and the sky and the cloudlet gray ;  
Which heaved and trembled, and gently swung,  
On every shore they seemed to be hung ;  
For there they were seen on their downward plain  
A thousand times and a thousand again ;  
In winding lake and placid firth,  
Little peaceful heavens in the bosom of earth.

Kilmeny sighed and seemed to grieve.  
For she found her heart to that land did cleave ;  
She saw the corn wave on the vale,  
She saw the deer run down the dale ;  
She saw the plaid and the broad claymore,  
And the brows that the badge of freedom bore  
And she thought she had seen the land before.

She saw a lady sit on a throne,  
The fairest that ever the sun shone on !  
A lion licked her hand of milk,  
And she held him in a leish of silk ;  
And a leifu' maiden stood at her knee,  
With a silver wand and melting ee ;  
Her sovereign shield till love stole in,  
And poisoned all the fount within.

Then a gruff untoward bedes-man came,  
And hundit the lion on his dame ;  
And the guardian maid wi' the dauntless ee,  
She dropped a tear, and left her knee ;  
And she saw till the queen frae the lion fled,  
Till the bonniest flower of the world lay dead ;  
A coffin was set on a distant plain,  
And she saw the red blood fall like rain :  
Then bonny Kilmeny's heart grew sair,  
And she turned away, and could look nae mair.

Then the gruff grim carle girmed amain,  
And they trampled him down, but he rose again ;  
And he baited the lion to deeds of weir,  
Till he lapped the blood to the kingdom dear ;  
And weening his head was danger-preef,  
When crowned with the rose and clover leaf,  
He gowled at the carle, and chased him away  
To feed wi' the deer on the mountain gray.  
He gowled at the carle, and he gecked at Heaven,  
But his mark was set, and his arles given.  
Kilmeny a while her een withdrew ;  
*She looked again, and the scene was new.*

She saw below her fair unfurled  
One half of all the glowing world,  
Where oceans rolled, and rivers ran,  
To bound the aims of sinful man.  
She saw a people, fierce and fell,  
Burst frae their bouthds like fiends of hell ;  
There lilies grew, and the eagle flew,  
And she herked on her ravening crew,  
Till the cities and towers were wrapt in a blaze,  
And the thunder it roared o'er the lands and the seas.  
The widows they wailed, and the red blood ran,  
And she threatened an end to the race of man .  
She never lened, nor stood in awe,  
Till caught by the lion's deadly paw.  
Oh ! then the eagle swinked for life,  
And brainzelled up a mortal strife ;  
But flew she north, or flew she south,  
She met wi' the gowl of the lion's mouth.

With a mooted wing and waefu' maen,  
The eagle sought her eiry again ;  
But lang may she cower in her bloody nest,  
And lang, lang sleek her wounded breast,  
Before she sey another flight,  
To play wi' the norland lion's might.

But to sing the sights Kilmeny saw,  
So far surpassing nature's law,  
The singer's voice wad sink away,  
And the string of his harp wad cease to play.  
But she saw till the sorrows of man were bye.  
And all was love and harmony ;

Till the stars of heaven fell calmly away,  
Like the flakes of snaw on a winter day.

Then Kilmeny begged again to see  
The friends she had left in her own countrye,  
To tell of the place where she had been,  
And the glories that lay in the land unseen ;  
To warn the living maidens fair,  
The loved of Heaven, the spirits' care,  
That all whose minds unmeled remain  
Shall bloom in beauty when time is gane.

With distant music, soft and deep,  
They lulled Kilmeny sound asleep ;  
And when she awakened, she lay her lane,  
All happed with flowers in the green-wood wene.  
When seven lang years had come and fled ;  
When grief was calm, and hope was dead ;  
When scarce was remembered Kilmeny's name.  
Late, late in a gloamin Kilmeny came hame !  
And O, her beauty was fair to see,  
But still and steadfast was her ee !  
Such beauty bard may never declare,  
For there was no pride nor passion there ;  
And the soft desire of maiden's een  
In that mild face could never be seen.  
Her seymar was the lily flower,  
And her cheek the moss-rose in the shower ;  
And her voice like the distant melodye,  
That floats along the twilight sea.  
But she loved to raike the lanely glen,  
And keeped afar frae the haunts of men ;



her holy hymns unheard to sing,  
To suck the flowers, and drink the spring  
But wherever her peaceful form appeared,  
The wild beasts of the hill were cheered ;  
The wolf played blythely round the field,  
The lordly byson lowed and kneeled ;  
The dun deer wooed with manner bland,  
And cowered aneath her lily hand.  
And when at even the woodlands rung,  
When hymns of other worlds she sung  
In ecstasy of sweet devotion,  
O, then the glen was all in motion !  
The wild beasts of the forest came,  
Broke from their bughts and faulds the tame  
And goved around, charmed and amazed ;  
Even the dull cattle crooned and gazed,  
And murmured and looked with anxious pain  
For something the mystery to explain.  
The buzzard came with the throstle-cock ;  
The corby left her houf in the rock ;  
The blackbird alang wi' the eagle flew ;  
The hind came tripping o'er the dew ;  
The wolf and the kid their raik began,  
And the tod, and the lamb, and the leveret ran ;  
The hawk and the hern attour them hung,  
And the merl and the mavis forhooyed their young ;  
And all in a peaceful ring were hurled :  
It was like an eve in a sinless world !

When a month and a day had come and gane,  
Kilmeny sought the green-wood wene ;  
There *laid her down on the leaves sae green,*  
*And Kilmeny on earth was never mair seen.*

But O, the words that fell from her mouth,  
Were words of wonder, and words of truth !  
But all the land were in fear and dread,  
For they kendna whether she was living or dead  
It wasna her hame, and she couldna remain ;  
She left this world of sorrow and pain,  
And returned to the land of thought again.



He ceased ; and all with kind concern  
Blessed in their hearts the bard of Ern.

But that the chill and piercing air,  
The pallid hue of ladies fair,  
The hidden yawn, and drumbly eye,  
Loudly announced the morning nigh :  
Beckoned the Queen with courteous smile,  
And breathless silence gazed the while :—

“ I hold it best, my lords,” she said,  
“ For knight, for dame, and lovely maid,  
At wassail, wake, or revel hall,  
To part before the senses pall.  
Sweet though the draught of pleasure be,  
Why should we drain it to the lee ?  
Though there the minstrel’s fancy play,  
Light as the breeze of summer day ;  
Though here in solemn cadence flow,  
Smooth as the night-wind o’er the snow ;  
Now bound away with rolling sweep,  
Like tempest o’er the raving deep ;

High on the morning's golden screen,  
Or casemate of the rainbow lean ;—  
Such beauties were in vain prolonged,  
The soul is cloyed, the minstrel wronged.

“ Loud is the morning blast and chill,  
The snow-drift speeds along the hill ;  
Let ladies of the storm beware,  
And knights of ladies take a care ;  
From lanes and alleys guard them well,  
Where lurking ghost or sprite may dwell ;  
But most avoid the dazzling flare,  
And spirit of the morning air ;  
Hide from their eyes that hideous form,  
The ruthless angel of the storm.  
I wish, for every gallant's sake—  
That none may rue our Royal Wake—  
I wish what most his heart approves,  
And every lady what she loves,—  
Sweet be her sleep on bed of down,  
And pleasing be her dreams till noon.  
And when you hear the bugle's strain,  
I hope to see you all again.”—

Whether the Queen to fear inclined,  
Or spoke to cheer the minstrel's mind,  
Certes, she spoke with meaning leer,  
And ladies smiled her words to hear.  
Yet, though the dawn of morning shone,  
No lady from that night-wake gone,  
Not even the queen, durst sleep alone.

And scarce had Sleep, with throb and sigh,  
O'er breast of snow, and moistened eye,  
Outspread his shadowy canopy,  
When every fervid female mind,  
Or sailed with witches on the wind,  
In Carlisle drank the potent wine,  
Or floated on the foamy brine.  
Some strove the land of thought to win,  
Impelled by hope, withstood by sin;  
And some with angry spirit stood  
By lonely stream, or pathless wood.  
And oft was heard the broken sigh,  
The half-formed prayer, and smothered cry  
So much the minds of old and young  
Were moved by what the minstrels sung.  
What Lady Gordon did or said  
Could not be learned from lady's maid,  
And Huntly swore and shook his head :  
But she and all her buskined train  
Appeared not at the Wake again.

# THE QUEEN'S WAKE.

## NIGHT THE THIRD.

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THE storm had ceased to shroud the hill;  
THE morning's breath was pure and chill;  
AND when the sun rose from the main,  
NO eye the glory could sustain.  
THE icicles so dazzling bright;  
THE spreading wold so smooth and white;  
THE cloudless sky, the air so sheen,  
THAT roes on Pentland's top were seen;  
AND Grampian mountains, frowning high,  
SEEMED frozen 'mid the northern sky.  
THE frame was braced, the mind set free  
TO feat, or brisk hilarity.

The sun, far on his southern throne,  
Glowed in stern majesty alone :  
'Twas like the loved, the toilsome day,  
That dawns on mountains west away,  
When the furred Indian hunter hastes  
Far up *his Appalachian wastes*,

To range the savage haunts, and dare  
In his dark home the sullen bear.  
And ere that noon-day sun had shone  
Right on the banks of Duddingston,  
Heavens ! what a scene of noise and glee,  
And busy brisk anxiety !  
There age and youth their pastime take  
On the smooth ice that chains the lake.  
The Highland chief, the Border knight,  
In waving plumes, and baldricks bright,  
Join in the bloodless friendly war,  
The sounding stone to hurl afar.  
The hair-breadth aim, the plaudits due,  
The rap, the shout, the ardour grew,  
Till drowsy day her curtain drew.

The youth, on cramps of polished steel,  
Joined in the race, the curve, the wheel ;  
With arms outstretched, and foot aside,  
Like lightning o'er the lake they glide ;  
And eastward far their impulse keep,  
Like angels journeying o'er the deep.

When night her spangled flag unfurled  
Wide o'er a wan and sheeted world,  
In keen debate homeward they hie,  
For well they knew the Wake was nigh.

By mountain sheer, and column tall,  
How solemn was that evening fall !  
The air was calm, the stars were bright,  
The hoar-frost flightered down the night ;

But oft the listening groups stood still,  
For spirits talked along the hill.  
The fairy tribes had gone to won  
In southland climes beneath the sun ;  
By shady woods, and waters sheen,  
And vales of everlasting green,  
To sing of Scotia's woodlands wild,  
Where human face had never smiled.  
The ghost had left the haunted yew,  
The wayward bogle fled the clough,  
The darksome pool of crisp and foam  
Was now no more the kelpie's home :  
But polar spirits sure had spread  
O'er hills which native fays had fled ;  
For all along, from cliff and tree,  
On Arthur's hill, and Salisbury,  
Came voices floating down the air  
From viewless shades that lingered there ;  
The words were fraught with mystery ;  
Voices of men they could not be.  
Youths turned their faces to the sky,  
With beating heart, and bended eye ;  
Old chieftains walked with hastened tread,  
Loath that their hearts should bow to dread  
They feared the spirits of the hill  
To sinful Scotland boded ill.

Orion up his baldrick drew,  
The evening star was still in view,  
Scarce had the Pleiads cleared the main,  
Or Charles reyoked his golden wain,  
When *from the palace-turrets rang*  
*The bugle's note with warning clang ;*

Each tower, each spire, in music spake,  
"Haste, nobles, to Queen Mary's Wake."  
The blooming maid ran to bedight,  
In spangled lace, and robe of white,  
That graceful emblem of her youth,  
Of guileless heart, and maiden truth.  
The matron decked her candid frame  
In moony brooch, and silk of flame;  
And every Earl and Baron bold  
Sparkled in clasp and loop of gold.  
'Twas the last night of hope and fear,  
That bards could sing, or Sovereign hear;  
And just ere rose the Christmas sun,  
The envied prize was lost or won.

The bard that night who foremost came  
Was not enrolled, nor known his name:  
A youth he was of manly mould,  
Gentle as lamb, as lion bold;  
But his fair face, and forehead high,  
Glowed with intrusive modesty.

'Twas said, by bank of southland stream  
Glided his youth in soothing dream;  
The harp he loved, and wont to stray  
Far to the wilds and woods away,  
And sing to brooks that gurgled bye  
Of maiden's form and maiden's eye;  
That, when this dream of youth was past,  
Deep in the shade his harp he cast;  
In busy life his cares beguiled,  
*His heart was true, and fortune smiled.*



But when the Royal Wake began,  
Joyful he came the foremost man,  
To see the matchless bard approved,  
And list the strains he once had loved.

Two nights had passed, the bards had sung—  
Queen Mary's Harp from ceiling hung,  
On which was graved her lovely mold,  
Beset with crowns and flowers of gold  
And many a gem of dazzling dye  
Glowed on that prize to minstrel's eye.

The youth had heard each minstrel's strain,  
And, fearing northern bard would gain,  
To try his youthful skill was moved,  
Not for himself, but friends he loved.

*Mary Scott.*

#### THE FOURTEENTH BARD'S SONG.

Lord Pringle's steed neighs in the stall,  
His panoply is irksome grown,  
His plumed helm hangs in the hall,  
His broad claymore is berry brown.

No more his bugle's evening peal  
Bids vassal arm and yeoman ride,  
To drive the deer of Otterdale,  
Or foray on the Border side.

Instead of hoop and battle knell,  
*Of warrior's song, and revel free,*

Is heard the lute's voluptuous swell  
Within the halls of Torwoodlee.

Sick lies his heart without relief;  
    'Tis love that breeds the warrior's woe,  
For daughter of a froward chief,  
    A freebooter, his mortal foe.

But O, that maiden's form of grace,  
    And eye of love, to him were dear !  
The smile that dimpled on her face  
    Was deadlier than the Border spear.

That form was not the poplar's stem,  
    That smile the dawning's purple line ;  
Nor was that eye the dazzling gem  
    That glows adown the Indian mine.

But would you praise the poplar pale,  
    Or morn in wreath of roses drest ;  
The fairest flower that wooes the vale,  
    Or down that clothes the solan's breast :

A thousand times beyond, above,  
    What rapt enthusiast ever saw ;  
Compare them to that mould of love—  
    Young Mary Scott of Tushilaw !

The war-flame glows on Ettrick Pen,  
    Bounds forth the foray swift as wind,  
And Tushilaw and all his men  
    Have left their homes afar behind.

O lady, lady, learn thy creed,  
And mark the watch-dog's boisterous din ;  
The Abbot comes with book and bead —  
O haste, and let the father in !

And, lady, mark his locks so gray,  
His beard so long, and colour wan ;  
O he has mourned for many a day,  
And sorrowed o'er the sins of man !

And yet so stately is his mien,  
His step so firm, and breast so bold ;  
His brawny leg and form, I ween,  
Are wondrous for a man so old.

Short was his greeting, short and low,  
His blessing short as prayer could be ;  
But oft he sighed, and boded woe,  
And spoke of sin and misery.

To shrift, to shrift, now ladies all,  
Your prayers and Ave Marias learn ;  
Haste, trembling to the vesper hall,  
For ah ! the priest is dark and stern.

Short was the task of lady old,  
Short as confession well could be ;  
The Abbot's orisons were cold,  
His absolutions frank and free.

Go, Mary Scott, thy spirit meek  
Lay open to the searcher's eye ;

And let the tear bedew thy cheek,  
Thy sins are of a crimson dye.

For many a lover thou hast slain,  
And many yet lie sick for thee—  
Young Gilmanscleuch and Deloraine,  
And Pringle, lord of Torwoodlee.

Tell every wish thy bosom near,  
No other sin, dear maid, hast thou ;  
And well the Abbot loves to hear  
Thy plights of love and simple vow.

“ Why stays my Mary Scott so long ?  
What guilt can youth and beauty wail ?  
Of fervent thought and passion strong,  
Heavens ! what a sickening tedious tale ! ”

O lady, cease ; the maiden's mind,  
Though pure as morning's cloudless beam,  
A crime in every wish can find,  
In noontide glance, and midnight dream.

To woman's heart when fair and free,  
Her sins seem great and manifold ;  
When sunk in guilt and misery,  
No crime can then her soul behold.

'Tis sweet to see the opening flower  
Spread its fair bosom to the sun ;  
'Tis sweet to hear in vernal bower  
The thrush's earliest hymn begun :

But sweeter far the prayer that wrings  
The tear from maiden's beaming eye;  
And sweeter far the hymn she sings  
In grateful holy ecstasy.

The mass was said, but cold and dry  
That mass to heaven the father sent ;  
With book, and bead, and rosary,  
The Abbot to his chamber went.

The watch-dog rests with folded eye  
Beneath the portal's gray festoon ;  
The wildered Ettrick wanders bye,  
Loud murmuring to the careless moon.

The warder lists with hope and dread  
Far distant shout of fray begun ;  
The cricket tunes his tiny reed,  
And harps behind the embers dun.

Why does the warder bend his head,  
And silent stand the casement near ?  
The cricket stops his little reed,  
The sound of gentle step to hear.

O many a wight from Border brake  
Has reaved the drowsy warden round ;  
And many a daughter lain awake,  
When parents trowed her sleeping sound.

The Abbot's bed is well down spread,  
The Abbot's bed is soft and fair,

The Abbot's bed is cold as lead—  
For why?—the Abbot is not there.

Was that the blast of bugle, borne  
Far on the night-wind, wavering shrill?  
'Tis nothing but the shepherd's horn  
That keeps the watch on Cacara hill.

What means the warder's answering note?  
The moon is west, 'tis near the day;  
I thought I heard the warrior's shout,  
'Tis time the Abbot were away!

The bittern mounts the morning air  
And rings the sky with quavering croon;  
The watch-dog sallies from his lair,  
And bays the wind and setting moon.

'Tis not the breeze, nor bittern's wail,  
Has roused the guarder from his den;  
Along the bank, in belt and mail,  
Come Tushilaw and all his men.

The Abbot, from his casement, saw  
The forest chieftain's proud array;  
He heard the voice of Tushilaw—  
The Abbot's heart grew cold as clay!

“Haste, maidens, call my lady fair,  
That room may for my warriors be;  
And bid my daughter come and share  
The cup of joy with them and me.

“ Say we have fought and won the fray,  
Have lowered our haughty foeman's pride ;  
And we have driven the richest prey  
That ever lowed by Ettrick side.”

To hear a tale of vanquished foes  
His lady came right cheerfully ;  
And Mary Scott, like morning rose,  
Stood blushing at her father's knee.

Fast flowed the warrior's ruthless tale,  
And aye the red cup passed between ;  
But Mary Scott grew lily pale,  
And trembled like the aspen green.

“ Now, lady, give me welcome cheer,  
Queen of the Border thou shalt be ;  
For I have brought thee gold and gear,  
And humbled haughty Torwoodlee.

“ I beat his yeomen in the glen,  
I loosed his horses from the stall,  
I slew the blood-hound in his den,  
And sought the chief through tower and hall.

“ 'Tis said, in hamlet mean and dark  
Nightly he lies with leman dear ;  
O, I would give ten thousand mark,  
To see his head upon my spear !

“ Go, maidens, every mat be spread  
On heather, haum, or roegrass heap,

And make for me the scarlet bed,  
For I have need of rest and sleep."—

"Nay, my good lord, make other choice,  
In that you cannot rest to-day;  
For there in peaceful slumber lies  
A holy Abbot, old and gray."

The chieftain's cheek to crimson grew,  
Dropt from his hand the rosy wine—  
"An Abbot! curse the canting crew!  
An Abbot sleep in couch of mine!

"Now, lady, as my soul shall thrive,  
I'd rather trust my child and thee  
With my two greatest foes alive,  
The King of Scots and Torwoodlee.

'The lazy hoard of Melrose vale  
Has brought my life, my all to stake:  
O, lady! I have heard a tale,  
The thought o't makes my heart to ache!

"Go, warriors, hale the villain forth,  
Bring not his loathful form to me;  
The gate stands open to the north,  
The rope hangs o'er the gallows tree.

"There shall the burning breeze of noon  
Rock the old sensual sluggard blind;  
There let him swing, till sun and moon  
Have three times left the world behind."—



O Abbot, Abbot, say thy prayers,  
With orisons load every breath ;  
The Forest trooper's on the stairs,  
To drag thee to a shameful death.

O Abbot, Abbot, quit thy bed,  
I'll armed art thou to meet the strife ;  
Haste, don thy beard, and quof thy head,  
And guard the door for death or life.

Thy arm is firm, thy heart is stout  
Yet thou canst neither fight nor flee ;  
But beauty stands thy guard without.  
Yes, beauty weeps and pleads for thee.

Proud, ruthless man, by vengeance driven,  
Regardless hears a brother plead ;  
Regardless sees the brand of Heaven  
Red quivering o'er his guilty head :

But once let woman's soothing tongue  
Implore his help or clemency,  
Around him let her arms be flung,  
Or at his feet her bended knee—

The world's a shadow ! vengeance sleeps !  
The child of reason stands revealed—  
When beauty pleads, when woman weeps,  
He is not man who scorns to yield.

Stern Tushilaw is gone to sleep,  
*Laughing at woman's dread of sin ;*

But first he bade his warriors keep  
All robbers out, and Abbots in.

The Abbot from his casement high  
Looked out to see the peep of day ;  
The scene that met the Abbot's eye  
Filled him with wonder and dismay.

'Twas not the dews of dawning mild,  
The mountain's hues of silver gray  
Nor yet the Ettrick's windings wild,  
By belted holm and bosky brae ;

Nor moorland Rankleburn, that raved  
By covert, clough, and greenwood shaw ;  
Nor dappled flag of day, that waved  
In streamers pale from Gilmans-law

But many a doubted ox there lay  
At rest upon the castle lea ;  
And there he saw his gallant gray,  
And all the steeds of Torwoodlee.

" Beshrew the wont !" the Abbot said,  
" The charge runs high for lodging here ;  
The guard is deep, the path way-laid,  
My homilies shall cost me dear.

" Come well, come woe, with dauntless core  
I'll kneel, and con my breviary ;  
If Tushilaw is versed in lore,  
'Twill be an awkward game with me."—

Now Tushilaw he waked and slept,  
And dreamed and thought till noontide hour;  
But aye this query upmost kept,  
"What seeks the Abbot in my tower?"

Then Tushilaw came down the stair  
With doubtful and indignant eye,  
And found the holy man at prayer,  
With book, and cross, and rosary.

"To book, to book, thou reaver red,  
Of absolution thou hast need;  
The sword of Heaven hangs o'er thy head,  
Death is thy doom, and hell thy meed!"—

"I'll take my chance, thou priest of sin,  
Thy absolutions I disdain;  
But I will noose thy bearded chin  
If thus thou talk'st to me again.

"Declare thy business and thy name,  
Or short the route to thee is given!"—  
"The Abbot I of Coldinghame,  
My errand is the cause of Heaven."—

"That shalt thou prove ere we two part;  
Some robber thou, or royal spy:  
But, villain, I will search thy heart,  
And chain thee in the deep to lie!

"Hence with thy rubbish, hest and ban,  
Whinyards to keep the weak in awe;

The scorn of Heaven, the shame of man—  
No books nor beads for Tushilaw !”

‘ Oh ! lost to mercy, faith, and love !  
Thy bolts and chains are nought to me ;  
I’ll call an angel from above,  
That soon will set the prisoner free.’ —

Bold Tushilaw, o’er strone and steep,  
Pursues the roe and dusky deer ;  
The Abbot lies in dungeon deep,  
The maidens wail, the matrons fear.

The sweetest flower on Ettrick shaw  
Bends its fair form o’er grated keep ;  
Young Mary Scott of Tushilaw  
Sleeps but to sigh, and wakes to weep.

Bold Tushilaw, with horn and hound,  
Pursues the deer o’er holt and lea ;  
And rides and rules the Border round,  
From Philiphaugh to Gilnockye.

His page rode down by Melrose fair,  
His page rode down by Coldinghame ;  
But not a priest was missing there,  
Nor Abbot, Friar, nor Monk of name.

The evening came ; it was the last  
The Abbot in this world should see ;  
The bonds are firm, the bolts are fast,  
No angel comes to set him free.

Yes, at the stillest hour of night  
Softly unfolds the iron door ;  
Beamed through the gloom unwonted light  
That light a beauteous angel bore.

Fair was the form that o'er him hung,  
And fair the hands that set him free ;  
The trembling whispers of her tongue  
Softer than seraph's melody.

The Abbot's soul was all on flame,  
Wild transport through his bosom ran ;  
For never angel's airy frame  
Was half so sweet to mortal man !

Why walks young Mary Scott so late,  
In veil and cloak of cramasye ?  
The porter opens wide the gate,  
His bonnet moves, and bends his knee.

Long may the wondering porter wait,  
Before the lady form return ;  
"Speed, Abbot, speed, nor halt nor bate,  
Nor look thou back to Rankleburn !"

The day arrives, the ladies plead  
In vain for yon mysterious wight ;  
For Tushilaw his doom decreed,  
Were he an Abbot, Lord, or Knight.

The chieftain called his warriors stout,  
And *ranged* them round the gallows tree,

Then bade them bring the Abbot out,  
The fate of fraud that all might see.

The men return of sense bereft,  
Falter their tongues, their eye-balls glare  
The door was locked, the fetters left—  
All close ! the Abbot was not there !

The wondering warriors bow to God,  
And matins to the Virgin hum ;  
But Tushilaw he gloomed and strode,  
And walked into the castle dumb.

But to the Virgin's sacred name  
The vow was paid in many a cell ;  
And many a rich oblation came  
For that amazing miracle.

Lord Pringle walked his glens alone,  
Nor flock nor lowing herd he saw ;  
But even the king upon the throne  
Quaked at the name of Tushilaw.

Lord Pringle's heart was all on flame,  
Nor peace nor joy his bosom knew,  
'Twas for the kindest, sweetest dame,  
That ever brushed the Forest dew.

Gone is one month with smile and sigh,  
With dream by night and wish by day ;  
A second came with moistened eye ;  
Another came and passed away.

Why is the flower of yonder pile  
    Bending its stem to court decay,  
And Mary Scott's benignant smile  
    Like sun-beam in a winter-day?

Sometimes her colour's like the rose,  
    Sometimes 'tis like the lily pale ;  
The flower that in the Forest grows  
    Is fallen before the summer gale.

A mother's fostering breast is warm,  
    And dark her doubts of love, I ween !  
For why ?—she felt its early harm—  
    A mother's eye is sharp and keen !

Tis done ! the woman stands revealed !  
    Stern Tushilaw is waked to see ;  
The bearded priest so well concealed,  
    Was Pringle, lord of Torwoodlee !

Oh, never was the thunder's jar,  
    The red tornado's wasting wing,  
Nor all the elemental war,  
    Like fury of the Border king.

He laughed aloud—his faulchion eyed—  
    A laugh of burning vengeance born !—  
“ Does thus the coward trow,” he cried,  
    “ To hold his conqueror's power to scorn !

“ Thinks Tushilaw of maids or wives,  
    Or such a *thing* as Torwoodlee !

Had Mary Scott a thousand lives,  
These lives were all too few for me !

“ Ere midnight, in the secret cave,  
This sword shall pierce her bosom's core,  
Though I go childless to my grave,  
And rue the deed for evermore !

“ O had I lulled the imp to rest  
When first she lisped her name to me,  
Or pierced her little guileless breast  
When smiling on her nurse's knee !”—

“ Just is your vengeance, my good lord,  
'Tis just and meet our daughter die ;  
For sharper than a foeman's sword  
Is family shame and injury.

“ But trust the ruthless deed to me ;  
I have a vial potent, good ;  
Unmeet that all the Scots should see  
A daughter's corse embalmed in blood !

“ Unmeet her gallant kinsmen know  
The guilt of one so fair and young ;  
No cup should to her memory flow,  
No requiem o'er her grave be sung.

“ My potent draught has erst proved true  
Beneath my own and husband's eye ;  
Trust me, ere falls the morning dew,  
In dreamless sleep shall Mary lie !”—



“ Even go thy way, thy words are true,  
I knew thy dauntless soul before ;  
But list—if thou deceivest me too,  
Thou hast a head ! I say no more.”

Stern Tushilaw strode o’er the ley,  
And, wondering, by the twilight saw  
A crystal tear drop from his eye,  
The first e’er shed by Tushilaw !

O grievous are the bonds of steel,  
And blasted hope ’tis hard to prove ;  
More grievous far it is to feel  
Ingratitude from those we love.

“ What brings my lady mother here,  
Pale as the morning shower and cold ?  
In her dark eye why stands the tear ;  
Why in her hand a cup of gold ?”

“ My Mary, thou are ill at rest,  
Fervid and feverish is thy blood ;  
Still yearns o’er thee thy mother’s breast,  
Take this, my child, ’tis for thy good !”—

O sad, sad was young Mary’s plight !  
She took the cup—no word she spake ;  
She had even wished that very night  
To sleep, and never more to wake.

She took the cup—she drank it dry,  
Then *pillowed soft her beauteous head,*

And calmly watched her mother's eye ;  
But O that eye was hard to read !

Her moistened eyes, so mild and meek,  
Soon sunk their auburn fringe beneath ;  
The ringlets on her damask cheek  
Heaved gentler with her stealing breath !

She turned her face unto the wall,  
Her colour changed to pallid clay ;  
Long ere the dews began to fall,  
The flower of Ettrick lifeless lay !

Why underneath her winding-sheet  
Does brodered silk her form enfold ?  
Why is cold Mary's buskined feet  
All laced with belts and bands of gold !

“ What boots to me those robes so gay ?  
To wear them now no child have I !  
They should have graced her brial day,  
Now they must in the church-yard lie !

“ I thought to see my daughter ride,  
In golden gear and cramasye,  
To Mary's fane, the loveliest bride  
E'er to the Virgin bent the knee.

“ Now I may by her funeral wain  
Ride silent o'er the mountain gray :  
Her revel hall, the gloomy fane ;  
Her bridal bed, the cheerless clay !”

*Why* that rich snood, with plume and lace,  
Round Mary's lifeless temples drawn ?  
*Why* is the napkin o'er her face,  
A fragment of the lily lawn ?

*My* Mary has another home ;  
And far, far though her journey be,  
*When* she to Paradise shall come,  
Then will my child remember me !"—

O many a flower was round her spread,  
And many a pearl and diamond bright,  
And many a window round her head  
Shed on her form a bootless light !

Lord Pringle sat on Maygill brae,  
Pondering on war and vengeance meet ;  
The Cadan toiled in narrow way,  
The Tweed rolled far beneath his feet.

Not Tweed, by gulf and whirlpool mazed,  
Through dark wood-glen, by him was seen ;  
For still his thought-set eye was raised  
To Ettrick mountains, wild and green.

Sullen he sat, unstaid, unblest,  
He thought of battle, broil, and blood ;  
He never crossed, he never wist  
Till by his side a Palmer stood.

" Haste, my good lord, this letter read,  
Ill bodes it listless thus to be ;

Upon a die I've set my head,  
And brought this letter far to thee."—

Lord Pringle looked the letter on,  
His face grew pale as winter sky ;  
But, ere the half of it was done,  
The tear of joy stood in his eye.

A purse he to the Palmer threw,  
Mounted the cleft of aged tree,  
Three times aloud his bugle blew,  
And hasted home to Torwoodlee.

'Twas scarcely past the hour of noon  
When first the foray whoop began ;  
And, in the wan light of the moon,  
Through March and Teviotdale it ran.

Far to the south it spread away,  
Startled the hind by fold and tree ;  
And aye the watch-word of the fray  
Was " Ride for Ker and Torwoodlee !"

When next the day began to fade,  
The warriors round their chieftains range ;  
And many a solemn vow they made,  
And many an oath of fell revenge.

The Pringles' plumes indignant dance—  
It was a gallant sight to see ;  
And many a Ker, with sword and lance,  
Stood rank and file on Torwoodlee.

As they fared up yon craigy glen,  
Where Tweed sweeps round the Thorny-hill,  
Old Gideon Murray and his men  
The foray joined with right good-will.

They hasted up by Flora side,  
And north above Mount-Benger turn,  
And lothly forced with them to ride  
Black Douglas of the Craigy-burn. .

When they came nigh Saint Mary's lake  
The day-sky glimmered on the dew ;  
They hid their horses in the brake,  
And lurked in heath and braken clough.

The lake one purple valley lay,  
Where tints of glowing light were seen ;  
The ganza waved his cuneal way,  
With yellow oar and quoif of green. .

The dark cock bayed above the coomb,  
Throned mid the wavy fringe of gold,  
Unwreathed from dawning's fairy loom,  
In many a soft vermilion fold.

The tiny skiffs of silver mist  
Lingered along the slumbering vale ;  
Belled the gray stag with fervid breast  
High on the moors of Meggat-dale.

There, hid in clough and hollow den,  
Gazing around the still sublime,—

There lay Lord Pringle and his men  
On beds of heath and moorland thyme.

That morning found rough Tushilaw  
In all the father's guise appear ;  
An end of all his hopes he saw  
Shrouded in Mary's gilded bier.

No eye could trace without concern  
The suffering warrior's troubled look ;  
The throbs that heaved his bosom stern  
No ear could bear, no heart could brook.

“ Woe be to thee, thou wicked dame !  
My Mary's prayers and accents mild  
Might well have rendered vengeance lame—  
This hand could ne'er have slain my child !

“ But thou, in frenzied fatal hour,  
Reft the sweet life, thou gavest, away,  
And crushed to earth the fairest flower  
That ever breathed the breeze of day.

“ My all is lost, my hope is fled,  
The sword shall ne'er be drawn for me ;  
Unblest, unhonoured my gray head—  
My child ! would I had died for thee !”—

The bell tolls o'er a new-made grave ;  
The lengthened funeral train is seen  
Stemming the Yarrow's silver wave,  
And darkening Dryhope holms so green.

When nigh the Virgin's fane they drew,  
Just by the verge of holy ground,  
The Kers and Pringles left the clough,  
And hemmed the wondering Scotts around.

Vassal and peasant, seized with dread,  
Sped off, and looked not once behind ;  
And all who came for wine and bread,  
Fled like the chaff before the wind.

But all the Scotts together flew,  
For every Scott of name was there, —  
In sullen mood their weapons drew,  
And back to back for fight prepare.

Rough was the onset—boast, nor threat,  
Nor word, was heard from friend or foe ;  
At once began the work of fate,  
With perilous thrust and deadly blow.

O but the Harden lads were true,  
And bore them bravely in the broil !  
The doughty laird of wild Buccleuch  
Raged like a lion in the toil.

His sword on bassenet was broke,  
The blood was streaming to his heel,  
But soon, to ward the fatal stroke,  
Up rattled twenty blades of steel.

Young Raeburn tilted gallantly ;  
But Ralph of Gilmanscleuch was slain,

Philip and Hugh of Baillilee,  
And Willaim laird of Deloraine.

Red Will of Thirlestane came on  
With his long sword and sullen eye ;  
Jealous of ancient honours won,  
Woe to the wight that came him nigh !

He was the last the ranks to break,  
And flying, fought full desperately ;  
At length within his feudal lake  
He stood, and fought, unto the knee.

Wild looked he round from side to side ;  
No friendly skiff was there that day !  
For why ? the knight in bootless pride,  
Had driven them from the wave away.

Sore did he rue the stern decree !  
Red rolled the billow from the west !  
And fishes swam indignantlly  
Deep o'er the hero's boardly breast.

When loud has roared the wintry storm,  
Till winds have ceased, and rains are g  
There oft the shepherd's trembling form  
Stands gazing o'er gigantic bone,

Pondering of Time's unstaying tide ;  
Of ancient chiefs by kinsmen slain :  
Of feudal rights, and feudal pride,  
And reckless Will of Thirlestane.



**B**ut long shall Ettrick rue the strife  
That reft her brave and generous son,  
**W**ho ne'er in all his restless life  
Did unbecoming thing but one.

**O**ld Tushilaw, with sword in hand,  
And heart to fiercest woes a prey,  
**S**eemed courting every foeman's brand,  
And fought in hottest of the fray.

**I**n vain the gallant kinsmen stood  
Wedged in a firm and bristled ring ;  
**T**heir funeral weeds are bathed in blood,  
No corslets round their bosoms cling.

**A**gainst the lance and helmed file  
Their courage, might, and skill were vain ;  
**S**hort was the conflict, short the while  
Ere all the Scotts were bound or slain.

**W**hen first the hostile band upsprung,  
The body in the church was laid,  
**W**here vows were made, and requiems sung,  
By matron, monk, and weeping maid.

**L**ord Pringle came—before his eye  
The monks and maidens kneeled in fear ;  
**B**ut Lady Tushilaw stood bye,  
And pointed to her Mary's bier !

“ Thou lord of guile and malice keen,  
What boots this doleful work to thee !

Could Scotland such a pair have seen  
As Mary Scott and Torwoodlee ?”

Lord Pringle came,—no word he spake,  
Nor owned the pangs his bosom knew ;  
But his full heart was like to break  
In every throb his bosom drew.

“ O I had weened with fondest heart—  
Woe to the guileful friend who lied !—  
This day should join us ne’er to part,  
This day that I should win my bride !

“ But I will see that face so meek,  
Cold, pale, and lifeless though it be ;  
And I will kiss that comely cheek,  
Once sweeter than the rose to me.”

With trembling hand he raised the lid,  
Sweet was the perfume round that flew ;  
For there were strewed the roses red,  
And every flower the Forest knew.

He drew the fair lawn from her face,  
’Twas decked with many a costly wreath ;  
And still it wore a soothing grace  
Even in the chill abodes of death.

And aye he prest the cheek so white,  
And aye he kissed the lips beloved,  
Till pitying maidens wept outright,  
And even the frigid monks were moved.

Why starts Lord Pringle to his knee ?  
Why bend his eyes with watchful strain ?  
The maidens shriek his mien to see ;  
The startled priests inquire in vain !

Was that a sob, an earthly sigh,  
That heaved the flowers so lightly shed ?  
'Twas but the wind that wandered bye,  
And kissed the bosom of the dead !

Are these the glowing tints of life  
O'er Mary's cheek that come and fly ?  
Ah, no ! the red flowers round are rife,  
The rose-bud flings its softened dye.

Why grows the gazer's sight so dim ?  
Stay, dear illusion, still beguile !  
Thou art worth crowns and worlds to him—  
Last, dear illusion, last a while !

Short was thy sway, frenzied and short,  
For ever fell the veil on thee ;  
Thy startling form, of fears the sport,  
Vanished in sweet reality !

'Tis past ! and darkly stand revealed  
A mother's cares and purpose deep :  
That kiss, the last adieu that sealed,  
Waked Mary from her death-like sleep !

Slowly she raised her form of grace ;  
Her eyes no ray conceptive flung ;

And O, her mild, her languid face,  
Was like a flower too early sprung!

“ O I lie sick and weary here,  
My heart is bound in moveless chain ;  
Another cup, my mother dear,  
I cannot sleep though I would fain !”—

She drank the wine with calm delay,  
She drank the wine with pause and sig  
Slowly, as wakes the dawning day,  
Dawned long-lost thought in Mary's eye

She looked at pall, she looked at bier,  
At altar, shrine, and rosary ;  
She saw her lady mother near,  
And at her side brave Torwoodlee !

'Twas all a dream, nor boded good,  
A phantom of the fevered brain !  
She laid her down in moaning mood,  
To sooth her woes in sleep again.

Needs not to paint that joyful hour,  
The nuptial vow, the bridal glee,  
How Mary Scott, the Forest flower,  
Was borne a bride to Torwoodlee.

Needs not to say, how warriors prayed  
When Mary glided from the dome ;  
They thought the Virgin's holy shade  
In likeness of the dead had come.

diamond and ruby rayed her waist,  
And twinkled round her brow so fair ;  
He wore more gold upon her breast  
Than would have bought the hills of Yair.

foot so light, a form so meet,  
Ne'er trode Saint Mary's lonely lea ;  
Bride so gay, a face so sweet,  
The Yarrow braes shall never see.

Ed Tushilaw deigned not to smile,  
No grateful word his tongue could say,  
He took one kiss, blest her the while,  
Wiped his dark eye, and turned away.

He Scotts were freed, and peace restored ;  
Each Scott, each Ker, each Pringle swore  
He wore by his name, and by his sword,  
To be firm friends for evermore.

• Ord Pringle's hills were stocked anew,  
Drove after drove came nightly free ;  
But many a Border Baron knew  
Whence came the dower to Torwoodlee.



Scarce had the closing measure rung,  
When from the ring the minstrel sprung,  
O'er foot of maid, and cane of man,  
Three times he foundered as he ran,  
And his gilt harp, of flowery frame,  
Left ready for the next that came.

Loud were the plaudits,—all the fair  
Their eyes turned to the royal chair :  
They looked again,—no bard was there !  
But whisper, smile, and question ran,  
Around the ring anent the man !  
While all the nobles of the south  
Lauded the generous stranger youth.

The next was bred on southern shore,  
Beneath the mists of Lammermore ;  
And long, by Nith and crystal Tweed,  
Had taught the Border youth to read :  
The strains of Greece, the bard of Troy,  
Were all his theme, and all his joy.

Well toned his voice of wars to sing ;  
His hair was dark as raven's wing ;  
His eye an intellectual lance ;  
No heart could bear its searching glance :  
But every bard to him was dear ;  
His heart was kind, his soul sincere.

When first of Royal Wake he heard,  
Forthwith it chained his sole regard :  
It was his thought, his hourly theme,  
His morning prayer, his midnight dream.  
Knights, dames, and squires of each degree,  
He deemed as fond of songs as he,  
And talked of them continually.  
But when he heard the Highland strain,  
Scarce could his breast his soul contain ;  
'Twas all unequaled, and would make  
Immortal Bards ! immortal Wake !

About Dunedin streets he ran,  
 Each knight he met, each maid, each man,  
 In field, in alley, tower, or hall,  
 The Wake was first, the Wake was all.

Alike to him the south or north,  
 So high he held the minstrel worth,  
 So high his ardent mind was wrought,  
 Once of himself he scarcely thought.  
 Dear to his heart the strain sublime,  
 The strain admired in ancient time ;  
 And of his minstrel honours proud,  
 He strung his harp too high, too loud. .

### King Edward's Dream.

#### THE FIFTEENTH BARD'S SONG.

Death-cock had whirled at the break of the morn,  
 Moon of her tassels of silver was shorn,  
 Hoary King Edward lay tossing in ire,  
 Mood in a ferment, his bosom on fire :  
 ATTLE-FILES, stretched o'er the valley, were still  
 LEN'S pine forests that darkened the hill.

slept—but his visions were loathly and grim ;  
 quivered his lip ! and how quaked every limb !  
 All-moving eye showed how troubled his rest,  
 Deep were the throbs of his labouring breast.

saw the Scot's banner red streaming on high ;  
 Hence Scottish warriors determined and nigh ;

Their columns of steel, and, bright gleaming before,  
The lance, the broad target, and Highland claymore.  
And, lo ! at their head, in stern glory appeared  
That hero of heroes so hated and feared ;  
'Twas the exile of Rachrin that led the array,  
And Wallace's spirit was pointing the way :  
His eye was a torch, beaming ruin and wrath,  
And graved on his helmet was—*Vengeance or Death*

In far Ethiopia's desert domain,  
Where whirlwinds new mountains up-pile on the plai  
Their crested brown billows, fierce curling on high,  
O'ershadow the sun, and are tossed to the sky ;  
But, meeting each other, they burst and recoil,  
Mix, thunder, and sink, with a reeling turmoil :  
As dreadful the onset that Edward beheld,  
As fast his brave legions were heaped on the field.

The plaided blue Highlander, swift as the wind,  
Spread terror before him, and ruin behind.  
Thick clouds of blood-vapour brood over the slain,  
And Pembroke and Howard are stretched on the plai

The chieftain he hated, all covered with blood,  
Still nearer and nearer approached where he stood ;  
He could not retreat, and no succour was near—  
“ Die, scorpion ! ” he cried, and pursued his career.  
The king felt the iron retreat from the wound,  
No hand to uphold him, he sunk on the ground :  
His spirit, escaped on the wings of the wind,  
Left terror, confusion, and carnage behind,  
Till on the green Pentland he thought he sat lone,  
And pondered on troubles and times that were gone



He looked over meadow, broad river, and downe,  
From Ochil's fair mountains to Lammermore brown ;  
He still found his heart and desires were the same ;  
He wished to leave Scotland nor sceptre nor name.

He thought, as he lay on the green mountain thyme,  
A spirit approached him in manner sublime,  
At first she appeared like a streamer of light,  
But still, as she neared, she was formed to his sight.  
Her robe was the blue silken veil of the sky,  
The drop of the amethyst deepened its dye ;  
Her crown was a helmet, emblazoned with pearl ;  
Her mantle the sun-beam, her bracelets the beryl ;  
Her hands and her feet like the bright burning levin ;  
Her face was the face of an angel from heaven :  
Around her the winds and the echoes grew still,  
And rainbows were formed in the cloud of the hill.

Like music that floats o'er the soft heaving deep,  
When twilight has lulled all the breezes asleep,  
The wild fairy airs in our forests that rung,  
Or hymn of the sky by a seraph when sung ;  
So sweet were the tones on the fancy that broke,  
When the Guardian of Scotland's proud mountains thus  
spoke :—

“ What boots, mighty Edward, thy victories won ?  
’Tis over—thy sand of existence is run ;  
Thy laurels are faded, dispersed in the blast ;  
Thy soul from the bar of Omnipotence cast,  
To wander bewildered o'er mountain and plain,  
O'er lands thou hast steeped with the blood of the slain.

“ I heard of thy guerdon, I heard it on high;  
Thou’rt doomed on these mountains to linger and  
The mark of the tempest, the sport of the wind,  
The tempest of conscience, the storm of the mind,  
Till people thou’st hated, and sworn to subdue,  
Triumphant from bondage shall burst in thy view,  
Their sceptre and liberty bravely regain,  
And climb to renown over mountains of slain.

“ I thought (and I joined my endeavours to thine  
The time was arrived when the two should combine  
For ’tis known that they will ’mong the hosts of the  
And we thought that blest era of concord was nigh.  
But ages unborn yet shall flit on the wing,  
And Scotland to England ere then give a king;  
A father to monarchs, whose flourishing sway  
The ocean and ends of the earth shall obey.

“ See yon little hamlet o’ershadowed with smoke  
See yon hoary battlement throned on the rock,  
Even there shall a city in splendour break forth,  
The haughty Dunedin, the Queen of the North;  
There learning shall flourish, and liberty smile,  
The awe of the world, and the pride of the isle.

“ But thy lonely spirit shall roam in dismay,  
And weep o’er thy labours so soon to decay,  
In yon western plain, where thy power overthrew  
The bulwarks of Caledon, valiant and few;  
Where beamed the red faulchion of ravage and wra  
Where tyranny, horsed on the dragons of death,  
Rode ruthless through blood of the honoured and j  
*When Græme and brave Stuart lay bleeding in dus*

The wailings of liberty pierced the sky ;  
The Eternal, in pity, averted his eye !

“ Even there the dread power of thy nations combined,  
Proud England, green Erin, and Normandy joined,  
Exulting in numbers, and dreadful array,  
Led on by Carnarvon, to Scotland away,  
As thick as the snow-flakes that pour from the pole,  
Or silver-maned waves on the ocean that roll,  
By a handful of heroes, all desperate driven,  
Impelled by the might and the vengeance of Heaven,—  
By them shall these legions be all overborne,  
And melt from the field like the mist of the morn.  
The Thistle shall rear her rough front to the sky,  
And the Rose and the Shamrock at Carron shall die.

“ How couldst thou imagine those spirits of flame  
Would stoop to oppression, to slavery, and shame ?  
Ah ! never ; the lion may couch to thy sway,  
The mighty leviathan bend and obey ;  
But the Scots, round their King and broad banner  
unfurled,  
Their mountains will keep against thee and the world.”

King Edward awoke with a groan and a start,  
The vision was vanished, but not from his heart !  
His courage was high, but his vigour was gone ;  
He cursed the Scots nation, and bade them lead on.  
His legions moved on like a cloud of the west ;  
But fierce was the fever that boiled in his breast :  
On sand of the Solway they rested his bed,  
Where the soul of the king and the warrior fled.

He heard not the sound of the evening curfew;  
But the whisper that died on his tongue was—  
“ Subdue !”

---

The bard had sung so bold and high,  
While patriot fire flashed from his eye,  
That ere King Edward won to rest,  
Or sheet was spread above his breast,  
The harp-strings jarred in wild mis-tone ;  
The minstrel throbbed, his voice was gone.  
Upon his harp he leaned his head,  
And softly from the ring was led.

The next was from a western vale,  
Where Nith winds slowly down the dale ;  
Where play the waves o'er golden grain, -  
Like mimic billows of the main.  
Of the old elm his harp was made,  
That bent o'er Cluden's loneliest shade :  
No gilded sculpture round her flamed,  
For his own hand that harp had framed,  
In stolen hours, when, labour done,  
He strayed to view the parting sun.  
O, when the toy to him so fair,  
Began to form beneath his care,  
How danced his youthful heart with joy !  
How constant grew the dear employ !  
The sun would chamber in the Ken ;  
The red star rise o'er Locherben ;  
The solemn moon, in sickly hue,  
Waked from her eastern couch of dew,

Would half way gain the vault on high,  
Bathe in the Nith, slow stealing by,  
And still the bard his task would ply.

When his first notes, from covert gray,  
Arrested maiden on her way ;  
When ceased the reaper's evening tale,  
And paused the shepherd of the dale,—  
Bootless all higher worldly bliss,  
To crown our minstrel's happiness !  
What all the joys by fortune given,  
To cloyless song, the gift of Heaven ?

That harp could make the matron stare,  
Bristle the peasant's hoary hair,  
Make patriot breasts with ardour glow,  
And warrior pant to meet the foe ;  
And long by Nith the maidens young  
Shall chant the strains their minstrel sung.  
At ewe-bught, or at evening fold,  
When resting on the daisied wold,  
Combing their locks of waving gold,  
Oft the fair group, enrapt, shall name  
Their lost, their darling Cunninghame ;  
His was a song beloved in youth,—  
A tale of weir—a tale of truth.

### **Dumlanrig.**

#### THE SIXTEENTH BARD'S SONG.

Who's he that at Dumlanrig's gate  
Hollas *so loud*, and raps *so late* ?

Nor warder's threat, nor porter's growl,  
Question, nor watch-dog's angry howl,  
He once regards, but rap and call,  
Thundering alternate, shake the wall.  
The captive, stretched in dungeon deep,  
Waked from his painful visioned sleep,  
His meagre form from pavement raised,  
And listened to the sounds amazed :  
Both bayle and keep rang with the din,  
And Douglas heard the noise within.

“ Ho ! rise, Dumlanrig ! all's at stake !  
Ho ! rise, Dumlanrig ! Douglas, wake !—  
Blow, warder—blow thy warning shrill,  
Light up the beacon on the hill,  
For round thee reaves thy ruthless foe—  
Arise, Dumlanrig ! Douglas, ho ! ”—

His fur-cloak round him Douglas threw,  
And to the crennel eager flew .  
“ What news ? what news ? thou stalwart groom,  
Who thus, in midnight's deepest gloom,  
Bring'st to my gate the loud alarm  
Of foray wide and country harm ?  
What are thy dangers ? what thy fears ?  
Say out thy message—Douglas hears.”

“ Haste, Douglas ! Douglas, arm with speed,  
And mount thy fleetest battle steed ;  
For Lennox, with the southern host,  
Whom thou hast bulked and curbed the most,  
Like locusts from the Solway blown,  
Are spread upon thy mountains brown :

Broke from their camp in search of prey,  
They drive thy flocks and herds away ;  
Roused by revenge, and hunger keen,  
They've swept the hills of fair Dalveen ;  
Nor left thee bullock, goat, or steer,  
On all the holms of Durisdeer.

“ One troop came to my father's hall ;  
They burnt our tower—they took our all.  
My dear, my only sister May,  
By force the ruffians bore away ;  
Nor kid, nor lamb, bleats in the glen,  
Around all lonely Locherben !

“ My twenty men, I have no moe,  
Eager to cross the roaming foe,  
Well armed with hauberk and broad-sword,  
Keep ward at Cample's rugged ford.  
Before they bear their prey across,  
Some Southrons shall their helmets lose,  
If not the heads those helmets shield,—  
O, haste thee, Douglas, to the field !”—  
With that his horse around he drew,  
And down the path like lightning flew.

“ Arm,” cried the Douglas, “ one and all !”  
And vanished from the echoing wall.  
“ Arm !” was the word ; along it ran  
Through manor, bayle, and barbican ;  
And clank and clatter burst at once  
From every loop of hall and sconce.  
With whoop of groom, and warder's call,  
*And prancing steeds, 'twas hurry all.*

At first, like thunder's distant tone,  
The rattling din came rolling on ;  
Echoed Dumlanrig woods around,  
Louder and louder swelled the sound,  
Till like the sheeted flame of wonder,  
That rends the shoals of heaven asunder.

When first the word, " To arms !" was give  
Glowed all the eastern porch of heaven ;  
A wreathy cloud of orient brown  
Had heralded the rising moon,  
Whose verge was like a silver bow,  
Bending o'er Ganna's lofty brow ;  
And ere above the mountain blue  
Her wasted orb was rolled in view,  
A thousand men, in armour sheen,  
Stood ranked upon Dumlanrig green.

The Nith they stemmed in firm array ;  
For Cample-ford they bent their way.  
Than Douglas and his men that night,  
Never saw yeomen nobler sight ;  
Mounted on tall curvetting steed,  
He rode undaunted at their head ;  
His shadow on the water still,  
Like giant on a moving hill.  
The ghastly bull's-head scowled on high,  
Emblem of death to foeman's eye ;  
And bloody hearts on streamers pale,  
Waved wildly in the midnight gale.

O, haste thee, Douglas ! haste and ride !  
Thy kinsmen's corpses stem the tide !



What red, what dauntless youth is he,  
Who stands in Cample to the knee ;  
Whose arm of steel, and weapon good,  
Still dyes the stream with Southern blood,  
While round him fall his faithful men ?  
'Tis Morison of Locherben.

O, haste thee, Douglas, to the fray,  
Ere won be that important way !  
The Southron's countless prey, within  
The dreadful coils of Crighup linn,  
No passage from the moor can find,—  
The wood below, the gulf behind :  
One pass there is, and one alone,  
And in that pass stands Morison.  
Who crosses there, or man or beast,  
Must make their passage o'er his breast,  
And over heaps of mangled dead,  
That dam red Cample from its bed.  
His sister's cries his soul alarm,  
And add new vigour to his arm.  
His twenty men are waned to ten—  
O, haste to dauntless Locherben !

The Southrons, balked, impatient turn,  
And crowd once more the fatal bourn.  
All desperate grew the work of death,  
No yielding but with yielding breath ;  
Even still lay every death-struck man,  
For footing to the furious van.  
The little band was seized with dread,  
Behind their rampart of the dead ;

Power from their arms began to fly,  
And hope within their breasts to die,  
When loud they heard the cheering word  
Of—" Douglas! Douglas!" cross the ford  
Then turned the Southron swift as wind,  
For fierce the battle raged behind.

O, stay, brave Morison! O, stay!  
Guard but that pass till break of day;  
Thy flocks, thy sister to retrieve,  
That task to doughty Douglas leave:  
Let not thine ardour all betray,—  
Thy might is spent—brave warrior, stay.

O, for the lyre of heaven that rung  
When Linden's lofty hymn was sung;  
Or his, who from the height beheld  
The reeling strife of Flodden field!  
Then far on wing of genius borne  
Should ring the wonders of that morn:  
Morn!—ah! how many a warrior bold  
That morn was never to behold!  
When rival rank to rank drew nigh,  
When eye was fixed on foeman's eye,  
When lowered was lance, and bent was bow,  
And faulchion clenched to strike the blow,  
No breath was heard, nor clank of mail,  
Each face with rage grew deadly pale:  
Trembled the moon's reluctant ray;  
The breeze of heaven sunk soft away.

So furious was that onset's shock,  
Destruction's gates at once unlock:

like the earthquake's hollow groan,  
 towers and towns are overthrown :  
 like the river's midnight crush,  
 snows dissolve, and torrents rush ;  
 fields of ice, in rude array,  
 uct its own resistless way :  
 like the whirlwind's rending sweep :  
 like the tempest of the deep,  
 e Corrybraken's surges driven,  
 mount, and lash the breast of heaven.

was foot to foot, and brand to brand ;  
 ilt to hilt, and hand to hand ;  
 allant foemen, woe to tell,  
 in each other's bosoms fell !  
 orsemen met with might and main,  
 reeled, and wheeled, and met again.  
 usand spears on hauberks bang ;  
 usand swords on helmets clang.  
 e might was with the feebler blent,  
 here the line of battle bent ;  
 ; recoiled from flank assail,  
 : blows fell thick as rattling hail,  
 e stood mute that fateful hour,  
 ve the ranks on Cample-moor,  
 ountain goats that left their den,  
 leating fled to Garroch glen.

nlanrig, aye in battle keen,  
 remost in the broil was seen :  
 to the warrior dared withstand  
 rogress of his deadly brand !

He sat so firm, he reined so well,  
Whole ranks before his charger fell.  
A valiant youth kept by his side,  
With crest and armour crimson dyed ;  
Charged still with him the yielding foe,  
And seconded his every blow.  
The Douglas wondered whence he came,  
And asked his lineage and his name :  
'Twas he who kept the narrow way,  
Who raised at first the battle-fray,  
And roused Dumlanrig and his men,—  
Brave Morison of Locherben.

“ My chief,” he said, “ forgive my fear  
For one than life to me more dear ;  
But late I heard my sister cry,  
‘ Dumlanrig, now thy weapon ply.’—  
Her guard waits in yon hollow lea,  
Beneath the shade of spreading tree.”—

Dumlanrig's eye with ardour shone ;  
“ Follow !” he cried, and spurred him on.  
A close gazoon the horsemen made,  
Douglas and Morison the head,  
And through the ranks impetuous bore,  
By dint of lance and broad claymore,  
Mid shouts, and groans of parting life,  
For hard and doubtful was the strife.  
Behind a knight, firm belted on.  
They found the fair May Morison.  
But why, through all Dumlanrig's train,  
Search her bright eyes, and search in vain ?

A stranger mounts her on his steed ;  
Brave Morison, where art thou fled ?  
The drivers for their booty feared,  
And, soon as Cample-ford was cleared,  
To work they fell, and forced away  
Across the stream their mighty prey.  
The bleating flocks in terror ran  
Across the bloody breast of man ;  
Even the dull cattle gazed with dread,  
And lowing, foundered o'er the dead.

The Southrons still the fight maintain ;  
Though broke, they closed and fought again,  
Till shouting drivers gave the word,  
That all the flocks had cleared the ford ;  
Then to that pass the bands retire,  
And safely braved Dumlanrig's ire.  
Rashly he tried, and tried in vain,  
That steep, that fatal path to gain ;  
Madly prolonged th' unequal fray,  
And lost his men, and lost the day.  
Amid the battle's fiercest shock,  
Three spears were on his bosom broke ;  
Then forced in flight to seek remede,  
Had it not been his noble steed,  
That swift away his master bore,  
He ne'er had seen Dumlanrig more.

The day-beam, from his moonlight sleep,  
O'er Queensberry began to peep,  
Kneeled drowsy on the mountain fern,  
At length rose tiptoe on the cairn,

Was it thy dumb, thy sullen host,  
Thy glory by misconduct lost ?  
Or thy proud bosom, swelling high,  
Made the round tear roll in thine eye ?  
Ah ! no ; thy heart was doomed to prove  
The sharper pang of slighted love.

What vision lingers on the heath,  
Flitting across the field of death ;  
Its gliding motion, smooth and still  
As vapour on the twilight hill,  
Or the last ray of falling even  
Shed through the parting clouds of heaven ?

Is it a sprite that roams forlorn ?  
Or angel from the bowers of morn,  
Come down a tear of heaven to shed,  
In pity o'er the valiant dead ?  
No vain, no fleeting phantom this !  
No vision from the bowers of bliss !  
Its radiant eye, and stately tread,  
Bespeak some beauteous mountain maid :  
No rose of Eden's bosom meek,  
Could match that maiden's moistened cheek ;  
No drifted wreath of morning snow,  
The whiteness of her lofty brow ;  
Nor gem of India's purest dye,  
The lustre of her eagle eye.

When beauty, Eden's bowers within,  
First stretched the arm to deeds of sin ;  
When passion burned, and prudence slept  
*The pitying angels bent and wept.*

But tears more soft were never shed,  
No, not when angels bowed the head,  
A sigh more mild did never breathe  
O'er human nature whelmed in death,  
Nor woe and dignity combine  
In face so lovely, so benign,  
As Douglas saw that dismal hour,  
Bent o'er a corse on Cample-moor ;  
A lady o'er her shield, her trust,  
A brave, an only brother's dust!

What heart of man unmoved can lie,  
When plays the smile in beauty's eye ?  
Or when a form of grace and love  
To music's notes can lightly move ?  
Yes : there are hearts unmoved can see  
The smile, the ring, the revelry ;  
But heart of warrior ne'er could bear  
The beam of beauty's crystal tear.  
Well was that morn the maxim proved—  
The Douglas saw, the Douglas loved.

“ O, cease thy tears, my lovely May,  
Sweet floweret of the banks of Ae,  
His soul thou never canst recall—  
He fell as warrior wont to fall.  
Deep, deep the loss we both bewail ;  
But that deep loss to countervail,  
Far as the day-flight of the hern,  
From Locherben to green Glencairn,  
From where the Shinnel torrents pour  
To the lone vales of Crawford-moor,

The fairy links of Tweed and Lyne,  
All, all the Douglas has, is thine,  
And Douglas too whate'er betide,  
Straight thou shalt be Dumlanrig's bride."—

“What ! mighty chief, a bride to thee !  
No, by yon heaven's High Majesty,  
Sooner I'll beg, forlorn and poor,  
Bent at thy meanest vassal's door,  
Than look thy splendid halls within,  
Thou deer, wrapt in a lion's skin !

“Here lies thy bravest knight in death ;  
Thy kinsmen strew the purple heath ;  
What boot thy boasted mountains green ?  
Nor flock, nor herd, can there be seen ;  
All driven before thy vaunting foe  
To ruthless slaughter, bleat and low,  
Whilst thou—shame on thy dastard head !—  
A wooing com'st amid the dead.

“O, that this feeble maiden hand  
Could bend the bow, or wield the brand !  
If yeomen mustered in my hall,  
Or trooped obsequious at my call,  
My country's honour I'd restore,  
And shame thy face for evermore.  
Go, first thy flocks and herds regain ;  
Revenge thy friends in battle slain ;  
Thy wounded honour heal ; that done,  
Douglas may ask May Morison.”



Dumlanrig's blood to's bosom rushed,  
His manly cheek like crimson blushed.  
He called three yeomen to his side:  
"Haste, gallant warriors, haste and ride!  
Warn Lindsay on the banks of Daur,  
The fierce M'Turk and Lochinvaour;  
Tell them that Lennox flies amain;  
That Maxwell and Glencairn are ta'en;  
Kilpatrick with the spoiler rides;  
The Johnston flies, and Jardine hides:  
That I alone am left to fight  
For country's cause and sovereign's right.  
My friends are fallen—my warriors toiled—  
My towns are burnt—my vassals spoiled:  
Yet say—before to-morrow's sun  
With amber tips the mountain dun,  
Either that host of ruthless thieves  
I'll scatter like the forest leaves,  
Or my wrung heart shall cease to play,  
And my right hand the sword to sway.  
At Blackwood I'll their coming bide:  
Haste, gallant warriors, haste and ride!"—

He spoke:—each yeomen bent his eye,  
And forward stooped in act to fly;  
No plea was urged, no short demur;  
Each heel was turned to strike the spur.

As ever ye saw the red deer's brood,  
From covert sprung, traverse the wood;  
Or heath-fowl beat the mountain wind  
And leave the fowler fixt behind;

As ever ye saw three arrows spring  
At once from yew-bow's twanging string—  
So flew the messengers of death,  
And, lessening, vanished on the heath.

The Douglas bade his troops with speed  
Prepare due honours for the dead,  
And meet well armed at evening still  
On the green cone of Blackford-hill.  
There came M'Turk to aid the war  
With troops from Shinnel glens and Scaur ;  
Fierce Gordon with the clans of Ken,  
And Lindsay with his Crawford men ;  
Old Morton, too, forlorn and gray,  
Whose son had fallen at break of day.

If troops on earth may e'er withstand  
An onset made by Scottish brand,  
Then lawless rapine sways the throng,  
And conscience whispers—" This is wrong "   
But should a foe, whate'er his might,  
To Scotia's soil dispute her right,  
Or dare on native mountain claim  
The poorest atom boasts her name,  
Though high that warrior's banners soar,  
Let him beware the broad claymore.

Scotland ! thy honours long have stood,  
Though rudely cropt, though rolled in blood,  
Yet, bathed in warm and purple dew,  
More glorious o'er the ruin grew.  
Long flourished thy paternal line ;  
*Arabia's lineage stoops to thine.*

Dumlanrig found his foes secure,  
Stretched on the ridge of Locher-moor:  
The hum that wandered from their host,  
Far on the midnight breeze was lost.  
No deafening drum, no bugle's swell,  
No watch-word past from sentinel;  
No slight vibration stirred the air  
To warn the Scott a foe was there,  
Save bleat of flocks that wandered slow,  
And oxen's deep and sullen low.

What horrors o'er the warrior hang!  
What vultures watch his soul to fang!  
What toils! what snares!—he hies him on  
Where lightnings flash, and thunders groan  
Where havoc strikes whole legions low,  
And death's red billows murmuring flow;  
Yet still he fumes and flounders on,  
Till crushed the moth—its memory gone!

Why should the bard, who loves to mour  
His maiden's scorn by mountain bourn,  
Or pour his wild harp's fairy tone  
From sounding cliff or green-wood lone,  
Of slaughtered foemen proudly tell,  
On deeds of death and horror dwell?

Dread was Dumlanrig's martial ire,  
Fierce on the foe he rushed like fire:  
Lindsay of Crawford, known to fame,  
That night first gained a hero's name:  
The brave M'Turk of Stenhouse stood  
Bathed to the knees in Southron blood;

A bold and generous chief was he,  
And come of ancient pedigree ;  
And Gordon with his Galloway crew,  
O'er floundering ranks resistless flew.  
Short was the strife !—they fled as fast  
As chaff before the northern blast.

Dumlanrig's flocks were not a few,  
And well their worth Dumlanrig knew ;  
But ne'er so proud was he before  
Of his broad bounds and countless store,  
As when they sprung up Nithsdale plain,  
Well guarded, to their hills again  
With Douglas' name the green-woods rung,  
As battle-songs his warriors sung.  
The banners streamed in double row,  
The heart above, the rose below.  
His visage glowed, his pulse beat high,  
And gladness sparkled in his eye ;  
For why, he knew the lovely May,  
Who in Kilpatrick's castle lay,  
With joy his proud return would view,  
And her impetuous censure rue.

Well judged he :—Why should haughty chief  
Intrude himself on lady's grief,  
As if his right, as nought but he  
Were worthy her anxiety.  
No, warrior : keep thy distance due ;  
Beauty is proud and jealous too.  
If fair and young thy maiden be,  
Know *she knew that ere told by thee.*

Be kind, be gentle, heave the sigh,  
And blush before her piercing eye ;  
For though thou'rt noble, brave, and young  
If rough thy mien and rude thy tongue,  
Though proudly towers thy trophied pile,  
Hope not for beauty's yielding smile.  
Oh ! well it suits the brave and high,  
Gentle to prove in lady's eye.

Dumlanrig found his lovely flower  
Fair as the sun-beam o'er the shower,  
Gentle as zephyr of the plain,  
Sweet as the rose-bud after rain :  
Gone all her scorn and maiden pride,  
She blushed Dumlanrig's lovely bride.

James of Dumlanrig, though thy name  
Scarce vibrates in the ear of fame,  
But for thy might and valour keen,  
That gallant house had never been.

Blest be thy memory, gallant man !  
Oft flashed thy broad-sword in the van,  
When stern rebellion reared the brand,  
And stained the laurels of our land,  
No knight unshaken stood like thee  
In right of injured majesty :  
Even yet, o'er thy forgotten bier,  
A minstrel drops the burning tear,  
And strikes his wild harp's boldest string,  
Thy honours on the breeze to fling,  
That mountains once thine own may know  
From whom the Queensberry honours flow

Fair be thy memory, gallant knight !  
So true in love, so brave in fight !  
Though o'er thy children's princely urn  
The sculpture towers, and seraphs mourn,  
O'er thy green grave shall wave the yew.  
And heaven distil its earliest dew.

---

When ceased the bard's protracted song,  
Circled a smile the fair among ;  
The song was free, and soft its fall,  
So soothing, yet so bold withal,  
They loved it well, yet, sooth to say,  
Too long, too varied was the lay.

'Twas now the witching time of night,  
When reason strays, and forms that fright  
Are shadowed on the palsied sight ;  
When fancy moulds upon the mind  
Light visions on the passing wind,  
And woos, with faltering tongue and sigh,  
The shades o'er memory's wilds that fly ;  
And much the circle longed to hear  
Of gliding ghost, or gifted seer,  
That in that still and solemn hour  
Might stretch imagination's power,  
And restless fancy revel free  
In painful, pleasing luxury.  
Just as the battle-tale was done  
The watchman called the hour of one.

Lucky the hour for him who came,  
*Lucky the wish of every dame,*  
Vol. I. Q

The bard who rose at herald's call  
Was wont to sing in Highland hall,  
Where the wild chieftain of M'Lean  
Upheld his dark Hebridian reign ;  
Where floated crane and clamorous gull  
Above the misty shores of Mull ;  
And evermore the billows rave  
Round many a saint and sovereign's grave.  
There round Columba's ruins gray,  
The shades of monks are wont to stray,  
And slender forms of nuns, that weep  
In moonlight by the murmuring deep,  
O'er early loves and passions crost,  
And being's end for ever lost.  
No earthly form their names to save,  
No stem to flourish o'er their grave,  
No blood of theirs beyond the shrine  
To nurse the human soul divine,  
Still cherish youth by time unworn,  
And flow in ages yet unborn ;  
While mind, surviving evermore,  
Unbodied seeks that lonely shore.

In that wild land our minstrel bred,  
From youth a life of song had led,  
Wandering each shore and upland dull  
With Allan Bawn, the bard of Mull,  
To sing the deeds of old Fingal  
In every cot and Highland hall.

Well knew he, every ghost that came  
To visit fair Hebridian dame,

Was that of Monk or Abbot gone,  
Who once, in cell of pictured stone,  
Of woman thought, and her alone.

Well knew he, every female shade  
To westland chief that visit paid  
In morning pale, or evening dun,  
Was that of fair lamenting nun,  
Who once, in cloistered home forlorn,  
Languished for joys in youth forsworn;  
And oft himself had seen them glide  
At dawning from his own bed-side.

Forth stepped he with uncourtly bow,  
The heron plume waved o'er his brow,  
His garb was blent with varied shade,  
And round him flowed his Highland plaid;  
But woe to Southland dame and knight  
In minstrel's tale who took delight;  
Though known the air, the song he sung  
Was in the barbarous Highland tongue:  
But tartaned chiefs in raptures hear  
The strains, the words, to them so dear.

Thus ran the bold portentous lay,  
As near as Southern tongue can say.

### The Abbot M'Kinnon.

#### THE SEVENTEENTH BARD'S SONG.

M'Kinnon's tall mast salutes the day,  
*And beckons the breeze in Iona bay;*



Plays lightly up in the morning sky,  
And nods to the green wave rolling bye ;  
The anchor upheaves, the sails unfurl,  
The pennons of silk in the breezes curl ;  
But not one monk on holy ground  
Knows whither the Abbot M'Kinnon is bound.

Well could that bark o'er the ocean glide,  
Though monks and friars alone must guide ;  
For never man of other degree  
On board that sacred ship might be.  
On deck M'Kinnon walked soft and slow ;  
The haulers sung from the gilded prow ;  
The helmsman turned his brow to the sky,  
Upraised his cowl, and upraised his eye,  
And away shot the bark on the wing of the wind,  
Over billow and bay like an image of mind.

Aloft on the turret the monks appear,  
To see where the bark of their Abbot would bear ;  
They saw her sweep from Iona bay,  
And turn her prow to the north away,  
Still lessen to view in the hazy screen,  
And vanish amid the islands green.  
Then they turned their eyes to the female dome,  
And thought of the nuns till the Abbot came home.

Three times the night with aspect dull  
Came stealing o'er the moors of Mull ;  
Three times the sea-gull left the deep,  
To doze on the knob of the dizzy steep,  
By the sound of the ocean lulled to sleep ;

And still the watch-lights sailors see  
 On the top of the spire, and the top of Dun-ye;  
 And the laugh rings through the sacred dome,  
 For still the Abbot is not come home.

But the wolf that nightly swam the sound,  
 From Rosa's rude impervious bound,  
 On the ravenous burrowing race to feed,  
 That loved to haunt the home of the dead,  
 To him Saint Columb had left in trust  
 To guard the bones of the royal and just,  
 Of saints and of kings the sacred dust;  
 The savage was scared from his charnel of death,  
 And swam to his home in hunger and wrath,  
 For he momentarily saw, through the night so dun,  
 The cowering monk, and the veiled nun,  
 Whispering, sighing, and stealing away  
 By cross dark alley, and portal gray.  
 O, wise was the founder, and well said he,  
 "Where there are women, mischief must be."

No more the watch-fires gleam to the blast,  
 McKinnon and friends arrive at last.  
 A stranger youth to the isle they brought,  
 Modest of mien and deep of thought,  
 In costly sacred robes bedight,  
 And he lodged with the Abbot by day and by night.

His breast was graceful, and round withal,  
 His leg was taper, his foot was small,  
 And his tread so light that it flung no sound  
 On listening ear or vault around.

His eye was the morning's brightest ray,  
And his neck like the swan's in Iona bay;  
His teeth the ivory polished new,  
And his lip like the morel when glossed with dew,  
While under his cowl's embroidered fold  
Were seen the curls of waving gold.  
This comely youth, of beauty so bright,  
Abode with the Abbot by day and by night.

When arm in arm they walked the isle,  
Young friars would beckon, and monks would sm  
But sires, in dread of sins unshriven,  
Would shake their heads and look up to heaven,  
Afraid the frown of the saint to see,  
Who reared their temple amid the sea,  
And pledged his soul to guard the dome,  
Till virtue should fly her western home.  
But now a stranger of hidden degree,  
Too fair, too gentle, a man to be,  
This stranger of beauty and step so light  
Abode with the Abbot by day and by night.

The months and the days flew lightly bye,  
The monks were kind and the nuns were shy;  
But the gray-haired sires, in trembling mood,  
Kneeled at the altar and kissed the rood.

M'Kinnon he dreamed that the saint of the isl  
Stood by his side, and with courteous smile  
Bade him arise from his guilty sleep,  
And pay his respects to the God of the deep,

temple that north in the main appeared,  
Whose fire from bowels of ocean had seared,  
Which the giant builders of heaven had reared,  
No rival in grandeur the stately pile  
Himself had upreared in Iona's isle ;  
Nor round them rose the mountains of sand,  
Nor the fishes had left the coasts of the land,  
And so high ran the waves of the angry sea,  
They had drizzled the cross on the top of Dun-ye.  
The cycle was closed, and the period run  
He had vowed to the sea, he had vowed to the sun,  
In that time rose trouble or pain,  
Their homage to pay to the God of the main.  
When he bade him haste and the rites prepare,  
Famed all the monks should with him fare,  
And promised again to see him there.

M'Kinnon awoke from his visioned sleep,  
He opened his casement and looked on the deep ;  
He looked to the mountains, he looked to the shore,  
The vision amazed him and troubled him sore,  
He never had heard of the rite before ;  
But all was so plain, he thought meet to obey,  
He durst not decline, and he would not delay.

Uprose the Abbot, uprose the morn,  
Uprose the sun from the Bens of Lorn ;  
And the bark her course to the northward framed,  
With all on board whom the saint had named.

The clouds were journeying east the sky,  
The wind was low and the swell was high,

And the glossy sea was heaving bright  
Like ridges and hills of liquid light ;  
While far on her lubric bosom were seen  
The magic dyes of purple and green.

How joyed the bark her sides to lave !  
She leaned to the lee, and she girdled the wave ;  
Aloft on the stayless verge she hung,  
Light on the steep wave veered and swung,  
And the crests of the billows before her flung.  
Loud murmured the ocean with downward growl,  
The seal swam aloof and the dark sea fowl ;  
The pye-duck sought the depth of the main,  
And rose in the wheel of her wake again ;  
And behind her, far to the southward, shone  
A pathway of snow on the waste alone.

But now the dreadful strand they gain,  
Where rose the sacred dome of the main ;  
Oft had they seen the place before  
And kept aloof from the dismal shore,  
But now it rose before their prow,  
And what they beheld they did not know.  
The tall gray forms, in close-set file,  
Upholding the roof of that holy pile ;  
The sheets of foam and the clouds of spray,  
And the groans that rushed from the portals gray,  
Appalled their hearts, and drove them away.

They wheeled their bark to the east around,  
And moored in basin, by rocks imbound ;  
Then, awed to silence, they trode the strand  
*Where furnaced pillars in order stand,*

Al framed of the liquid burning levin,  
And bent like the bow that spans the heaven,  
Or upright ranged in horrid array,  
With purple of green o'er the darksome gray.

Their path was on wondrous pavement of old,  
Its blocks all cast in some giant mould,  
Fair hewn and grooved by no mortal hand,  
With countermure guarded by sea and by land.  
The watcher Bushella frowned over their way,  
Enrobed in the sea-baize, and hooded with gray;  
The warder that stands by that dome of the deep,  
With spray-shower and rainbow, the entrance to keep.  
But when they drew nigh to the chancel of ocean,  
And saw her waves rush to their raving devotion,  
Astounded and awed to the antes they clung,  
And listened the hymns in her temple she sung.  
The song of the cliff, when the winter winds blow,  
The thunder of heaven, the earthquake below,  
Conjoined, like the voice of a maiden would be,  
Compared with the anthem there sung by the sea.

The solemn rows in that darksome den,  
Were dimly seen like the forms of men,  
Like giant monks in ages ago,  
Whom the God of the ocean had seared to stone,  
And bound in his temple for ever to lean,  
In sackcloth of gray and visors of green,  
An everlasting worship to keep,  
And the big salt tears eternally weep.

So rapid the motion, the whirl and the boil,  
So loud was the tumult, so fierce the turmoil,

Appalled from those portals of terror they turn,  
On pillar of marble their incense to burn.  
Around the holy flame they pray,  
Then turning their faces all west away,  
On angel pavement each bent his knee,  
And sung this hymn to the God of the sea.

*The Monks' Hymn.*

Thou, who makest the ocean to flow,  
Thou, who walkest the channels below ;  
To thee, to thee, this incense we heap,  
Thou, who knowest not slumber nor sleep,  
Great Spirit that movest on the face of the deep !  
To thee, to thee, we sing to thee,  
God of the western wind, God of the sea !

To thee, who bringest with thy right hand  
The little fishes around our land ;  
To thee, who breathest in the bosomed sail,  
Rulest the shark and the rolling whale,  
Flingest the sinner to downward grave,  
Lightest the gleam on the mane of the wave,  
Bid'st the billows thy reign deform,  
Laugh'st in the whirlwind, sing'st in the storm ;  
Or risest like mountain amid the sea,  
Where mountain was never, and never will be,  
And rearest thy proud and thy pale chaperoon  
Mid walks of the angels and ways of the moon.  
To thee, to thee, this wine we pour,  
God of the western wind, God of the shower !

To thee, who bid'st those mountains of brine  
Softly sink in the fair moonshine,  
And spread'st thy couch of silver light,  
To lure to thy bosom the queen of the night,  
Who weavest the cloud of the ocean dew,  
And the mist that sleeps on her breast so blue ;  
When the murmurs die at the base of the hill,  
And the shadows lie rocked and slumbering still,  
And the Solan's young, and the lines of foam,  
Are scarcely heaved on thy peaceful home,  
We pour this oil and this wine to thee,  
God of the western wind, God of the sea !  
" Greater yet must the offering be."

---

The monks gazed round, the Abbot grew wan,  
For the closing notes were not sung by man.  
They came from the rock, or they came from the air  
From voice they knew not, and knew not where ;  
But it sung with a mournful melody,  
" Greater yet must the offering be."

In holy dread they past away,  
And they walked the ridge of that isle so gray,  
And saw the white waves toil and fret,  
An hundred fathoms below their feet ;  
They looked to the countless isles that lie  
From Barra to Mull, and from Jura to Skye ;  
They looked to heaven, they looked to the main,  
They looked at all with a silent pain,  
As on places they were not to see again.



A little bay lies hid from sight,  
O'erhung by cliffs of dreadful height ;  
When they drew nigh that airy steep,  
They heard a voice rise from the deep,  
And that voice was sweet as voice could be,  
And they feared it came from the Maid of the Se

M'Kinnon lay stretched on the verge of the hill  
And peeped from the height on the bay so still ;  
And he saw her sit on a weedy stone,  
Laving her fair breast, and singing alone ;  
And aye she sank the wave within,  
Till it gurgled around her lovely chin,  
Then combed her locks of the pale sea-green.  
And aye this song was heard between.

*The Mermaid's Song.*

Matilda of Skye  
Alone may lie,  
And list to the wind that whistles by :  
Sad may she be,  
For deep in the sea,  
Deep, deep, deep in the sea,  
This night her lover shall sleep with me.  
She may turn and hide  
From the spirits that glide,  
And the ghost that stands at her bed-side  
But never a kiss the vow shall seal,  
Nor warm embrace her bosom feel ;  
For far, far down in the floors below,  
Moist as this rock-weed, cold as the snow,

With the eel, and the clam, and the pearl of the deep,  
On soft sea-flowers her lover shall sleep ;  
And long and sound shall his slumber be,  
In the coral bowers of the deep, with me.

The trembling sun, far, far away,  
Shall pour on his couch a softened ray,  
And his mantle shall wave in the flowing tide,  
And the little fishes shall turn aside ;  
But the waves and the tides of the sea shall cease,  
Ere wakes her love from his bed of peace.  
No home !—no kiss !—No, never ! never !  
His couch is spread for ever and ever.

---

The Abbot arose in dumb dismay,  
They turned and fled from the height away,  
For dark and portentous was the day.  
When they came in view of their rocking sail,  
They saw an old man who sat on the wale ;  
His beard was long, and silver grey,  
Like the rime that falls at the break of day ;  
His locks like wool, and his colour wan,  
And he scarcely looked like an earthly man.

They asked his errand, they asked his name,  
Whereunto bound, and whence he came ;  
But a sullen thoughtful silence he kept,  
And turned his face to the sea and wept.  
Some gave him welcome, and some gave him scorn,  
But the Abbot stood pale, with terror o'erborne ;  
He tried to be jocund, but trembled the more,  
*For he thought he had seen the face before.*

Away went the ship with her canvass all spread,  
So glad to escape from that island of dread ;  
And skimmed the blue wave like a streamer of light  
'Till fell the dim veil 'twixt the day and the night.

Then the old man arose and stood up on the pr  
And fixed his dim eyes on the ocean below ;  
And they heard him saying, " Oh, woe is me !  
But great as the sin must the sacrifice be."  
Oh, mild was his eye, and his manner sublime,  
When he looked unto heaven, and said—" Now  
time."

He looked to the weather, he looked to the lee,  
He looked as for something he dreaded to see,  
Then stretched his pale hand, and pointed his eye  
To a gleam on the verge of the eastern sky.

The monks soon beheld, on the lofty Ben-More  
A sight which they never had seen before,  
A belt of blue lightning around it was driven,  
And its crown was encircled by morion of heaven :  
And they heard a herald that loud did cry,  
" Prepare the way for the Abbot of I !"

Then a sound arose, they knew not where,  
It came from the sea, or it came from the air,  
'Twas louder than tempest that ever blew,  
And the sea-fowls screamed, and in terror flew ;  
Some ran to the cords, some kneeled at the shrine,  
But a'! the wild elements seemed to combine ;  
'Twas just but one moment of stir and commotion,  
And down went the ship like a bird of the ocean !

This moment she sailed all stately and fair,  
The next, nor ship nor shadow was there,  
But a boil that arose from the deep below.  
A mountain gurgling column of snow ;  
It sunk away with a murmuring moan—  
The sea is calm, and the sinners are gone.

# THE QUEEN'S WAKE

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## CONCLUSION.

FRIEND of the bard ! peace to thy heart,  
Long hast thou acted generous part,  
Long hast thou courteously in pain  
Attended to a feeble strain,  
While oft abashed has sunk thine eye,—  
Thy task is done, the Wake is bye.

I saw thy fear, I knew it just ;  
Tw'as not for minstrels long in dust,  
But for the fond and venturous swain  
Who dared to wake their notes again ;  
Yet oft thine eye has spoke delight,  
I marked it well, and blessed the sight :  
No sour disdain, nor manner cold,  
Noted contempt for tales of old ;  
Oft hast thou at the fancies smiled,  
And marvelled at the legends wild ;  
Thy task is o'er ; peace to thy heart !  
For thou hast acted generous part.

'Tis said that thirty bards appeared,  
That thirty names were registered,  
With whom were titled chiefs combined,  
But some are lost and some declined.  
Woe's me, that all my mountain lore  
Has been unfit to rescue more !  
And that my guideless rustic skill  
Has told those ancient tales so ill.

The prize harp still hung on the wall ;  
The bards were warned to leave the hall,  
Till courtiers gave the judgment true,  
To whom the splendid prize was due.  
What curious wight will pass with me,  
The anxious motley group to see ;  
List their remarks of right and wrong,  
Of skilful hand and faulty song,  
And drink one glass the bards among ?

There sit the men—behold them there,  
Made maidens quake and courtiers stare,  
Whose names shall future ages tell ;  
What do they seem ? behold them well.  
A simpler race you shall not see,  
Awkward and vain as men can be ;  
Light as the fumes of fervid wine,  
Or foam-bells floating on the brine,  
The gossamers in air that sail,  
Or down that dances in the gale.

Each spoke of other's fame and skill  
With high applause, but jealous will.

Each song, each strain, he erst had known,  
And all had faults except his own  
Plaudits were mixed with meaning jeers,  
For all had hopes, and all had fears.

A herald rose the court among,  
And named each bard and named his song ;  
Rizzio was named from royal chair—  
“ Rizzio ! ” re-echoed many a fair.  
Each song had some that song approved,  
And voices gave for bard beloved.  
The first division called and done,  
Gardyn stood highest just by one.  
No merits can the courtier sway,  
'Twas then, it seems, as at this day.

Queen Mary reddened, wroth was she  
Her favourite thus outdone to see,  
Reproved her squire in high disdain,  
And caused him call the votes again.  
Strange though it seem, the truth I say  
Feature of that unyielding day,  
Her favourite's voters counted o'er,  
Were found much fewer than before.  
Glistened her eyes with pungent dew ;  
She found with whom she had to do.

Again the royal gallery rung  
With names of those who second sung,  
When, spite of haughty Highland blood,  
The Bard of Ettrick upmost stood.

The rest were named who sung so late,  
And, after long and keen debate,  
The specious nobles of the south  
Carried the nameless stranger youth ;  
Though Highland wrath was at the full,  
Contending for the Bard of Mull.

Then did the worst dispute begin,  
Which of the *three* the prize should win.  
'Twas party all—not minstrel worth,  
But honour of the south and north ;  
And nought was heard throughout the court,  
But taunt, and sneer, and keen retort.  
High ran the words, and fierce the fume,  
And from beneath each nodding plume  
Red look was cast that vengeance said,  
And palm on broad-sword's hilt was laid,  
While Lowland jeer, and Highland mood,  
Threatened to end the Wake in blood.

Rose from his seat the Lord of Mar,  
Serene in counsel as in war.  
“ For shame,” said he, “ contestants all !  
This outrage done in royal hall  
Is to our country foul disgrace :  
What ! mock our Sovereign to her face !  
Whose generous heart, and taste refined,  
Alike to bard and courtier kind,  
This high repast for all designed.  
For shame ! your party strife suspend,  
And list the counsel of a friend.



“ Unmeet it is for you or me  
To lessen one of all the three,  
Each excellent in his degree ;  
But taste, as sapient sages tell,  
Varies with climes in which we dwell.

“ Fair emblem of the Border dale,  
Is cadence soft and simple tale ;  
While stern romantic Highland clime,  
Still nourishes the rude sublime.

“ If Border ear may taste the worth  
Of the wild pathos of the north ;  
Or that sublimed by Ossian's lay,  
By forest dark and mountain gray,  
By clouds which frowning cliffs deform,  
By roaring flood and raving storm,  
Enjoy the smooth, the fairy tale,  
Or evening song of Teviotdale ;  
Then trow you may the tides adjourn,  
And nature from her path-way turn ;  
The wild-duck drive to mountain tree,  
The capperkayle to swim the sea,  
The heath-cock to the shelvy shore,  
The partridge to the mountain hoar,  
And bring the red-eyed patarmigan  
To dwell by the abodes of man.

“ To end this strife, unrul'd and vain,  
Let all the three be called again ;  
Their skill alternately be tried,  
And let the Queen alone decide.

hen hushed be jeer and answer proud,"—  
e said, and all, consenting, bowed.

When word was brought to bard's retreat,  
he group were all in dire debate ;  
he Border youth (that stranger wight)  
ad quarrelled with the clans outright ;  
ad placed their merits out of ken,  
eriding both the songs and men.  
'is said—but few the charge believes—  
e branded them as fools and thieves.  
ertes that war and woe had been,  
or gleaming dirks unsheathed were seen,  
he Highland minstrels ill could brook  
is taunting word and haughty look.

The youth was chafed, and with disdain  
efused to touch his harp again ;  
id he desired no more renown  
han keep those Highland boasters down ;  
ow he had seen them quite outdone,  
he south had two, the north but one ;  
ut should they bear the prize away,  
or that he should not, would not play ;  
e cared for no such guerdon mean,  
or for the harp, nor for the Queen.

His claim withdrawn, the victors twain  
epaired to prove their skill again.

The song that tuneful Gardyn sung  
still admired by old and young,

And long shall be at evening fold,  
While songs are sung or tales are told.  
Of stolen delights began the song,  
Of love the Carron woods among,  
Of lady borne from Carron side  
To Barnard towers and halls of pride,  
Of jealous lord and doubtful bride,  
And ended with Gilmore's doom  
Cut off in manhood's early bloom.  
Soft rung the closing notes and slow,  
And every heart was steeped in woe.

The harp of Ettrick rung again ;  
Her bard, intent on fairy strain,  
And fairy freak by moonlight shaw,  
Sung young Tam Linn of Carterha.'

Queen Mary's harp on high that hung,  
And every tone responsive rung,  
With gems of gold that dazzling shone,  
That harp is to the Highlands gone ;  
Gardyn is crowned with garlands gay,  
And bears the envied prize away.  
Long, long that harp, the hills among,  
Resounded Ossian's warrior song ;  
Waked slumbering lyres from every tree  
Adown the banks of Don and Dee,  
At length was borne, by beauteous bride,  
To woo the airs on Garry side.

When full two hundred years had fled,  
And all the northern bards were dead,

hat costly harp, of wondrous mould,  
efaced of all its gems and gold,  
With that which Gardyn erst did play,  
ack to Dunedin found its way.

As Mary's hand the victor crowned,  
nd twined the wreath his temples round,  
oud were the shouts of Highland chief—  
he Lowlanders were dumb with grief;  
nd the poor Bard of Ettrick stood  
ike statue pale, in moveless mood;  
ike ghost, which oft his eyes had seen  
t gloaming in his glens so green.  
ueen Mary saw the minstrel's pain,  
nd bade from bootless grief refrain.

She said a boon to him should fall  
Vorth all the harps in royal hall;  
f Scottish song a countless store,  
recious remains of minstrel lore,  
nd cottage, by a silver rill,  
ould all reward his rustic skill:  
id other gift his bosom claim,  
le needed but that gift to name.

“O, my fair Queen,” the minstrel said,  
With faltering voice and hanging head,  
Your cottage keep, and minstrel lore—  
rant me a harp, I ask no more.  
rom thy own hand a lyre I crave,  
hat boon alone my heart can save.”

" Well hast thou asked : and be it known,  
I have a harp of old renown  
Hath many an ardent wight beguiled ;  
'Twas framed by wizard of the wild,  
And will not yield one measure bland  
Beneath a skill-less stranger hand ;  
But once her powers by progress found,  
O there is magic in the sound !

" When worldly woes oppress thy heart—  
And thou and all must share a part—  
Should scorn be cast from maiden's eye,  
Should friendship fail, or fortune fly,  
Steal with thy harp to lonely brake,  
Her wild, her soothing numbers wake,  
And soon corroding cares shall cease,  
And passion's host be lulled to peace ;  
Angels a gilded screen shall cast,  
That cheers the future, veils the past.

" That harp will make the elves of eve  
Their dwelling in the moon-beam leave,  
And ope thine eyes by haunted tree  
Their glittering tiny forms to see.  
The flitting shades that woo the glen  
'Twill shape to forms of living men,  
To forms on earth no more you see,  
Who once were loved, and aye will be ;  
And holiest converse you may prove  
Of things below and things above."

" That is, that is the harp for me !"  
Said the rapt bard in ecstasy ;

othing, this exhaustless store,  
, my Queen, I ask no more."

on the weeping minstrel laid  
in his old grey plaid,  
olyrood he left behind  
is hills of mist and wind,  
s hero of renown,  
ch prouder of his crown.  
he vale, he climbed the coomo  
tain breeze began to boomb ;  
the magic chords it rung,  
his voice and blithely sung.  
ny wild harp ! thy notes forbear ;  
ing maids nor elves are here :  
while that witching tone,  
st not, canst not sing alone.  
mmer flings her watchet screen  
or Ettrick woods so green,  
s shall many a heart beguile ;  
auty's eye shall o'er thee smile,  
s trip it merrily  
y royal harp and me."

as that harp of magic tone  
minstrel world been known :  
not heard her witching lays  
banks and Yarrow braes ?  
weet bard, who sung and played  
a feat and Border raid,  
a knight and lovely maid,  
ced to leave his harp behind  
tuneful chords unwind ;

And many ages passed and came  
Ere man so well could tune the same.

Bangour the daring task essayed,  
Not half the chords his fingers played;  
Yet even then some thrilling lays  
Bespoke the harp of ancient days.

Redoubted Ramsay's peasant skill  
Flung some strained notes along the hill;  
His was some lyre from lady's hall,  
And not the mountain harp at all.

Langhorn arrived from Southern dale,  
And chimed his notes on Yarrow vale,  
They would not, could not, touch the hear  
His was the modish lyre of art.

Sweet rung the harp to Logan's hand:  
Then Leyden came from Border land,  
With dauntless heart and ardour high,  
And wild impatience in his eye.  
Though false his tones at times might be,  
Though wild notes marred the symphony  
Between, the glowing measure stole  
That spoke the bard's inspired soul.  
Sad were those strains, when hymned afar,  
On the green vales of Malabar:  
O'er seas beneath the golden morn,  
They travelled on the monsoon borne,  
Thrilling the heart of Indian maid,  
Beneath the wild banana's shade.—

Leyden ! a shepherd wails thy fate,  
And Scotland knows her loss too late.

The day arrived—blest be the day,  
Walter the Abbot came that way !—  
The sacred relic met his view—  
Ah ! well the pledge of Heaven he knew !  
He screwed the chords, he tried a strain ;  
'Twas wild—he tuned and tried again,  
Then poured the numbers bold and free,  
The ancient magic melody.

The land was charmed to list his lays ;  
It knew the harp of ancient days.  
The Border chiefs, that long had been  
In sepulchres unheard and green,  
Passed from their mouldy vaults away,  
In armour red and stern array,  
And by their moonlight halls were seen,  
In visor helm, and habergeon.  
Even fairies sought our land again,  
So powerful was the magic strain.

Blest be his generous heart for aye !  
He told me where the relic lay ;  
Pointed my way with ready will,  
Afar on Ettrick's wildest hill ;  
Watched my first notes with curious eye,  
And wondered at my minstrelsy :  
He little weened a parent's tongue  
Such strains had o'er my cradle sung.



O could the bard I loved so long,  
Reprove my fond aspiring song !  
Or could his tongue of candour say,  
That I should throw my harp away !  
Just when her notes began with skill  
To sound beneath the southern hill,  
And twine around my bosom's core,  
How could we part for evermore !  
'Twas kindness all, I cannot blame,  
For bootless is the minstrel flame ;  
But sure a bard might well have known  
Another's feelings by his own !

Of change enamoured, woe the while !  
He left our mountains, left the isle ;  
And far to other kingdoms bore  
The Caledonian harp of yore ;  
But, to the hand that framed her true,  
Only by force one strain she threw.  
That harp he never more shall see,  
Unless 'mong Scotland's hills with me.

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Now, my loved Harp, a while farewell !  
I leave thee on the old gray thorn ;  
The evening dew will mar thy swell,  
That waked to joy the cheerful morn.

Farewell, sweet soother of my woe !  
Chill blows the blast around my head ;  
And louder yet that blast may blow,  
When down this weary vale I've sped.

The wreath lies on Saint Mary's shore ;  
The mountain sounds are harsh and loud ;  
The lofty brows of stern Clokmore  
Are visored with the moving cloud.

But Winter's deadly hues shall fade  
On moorland bald and mountain shaw,  
And soon the rainbow's lovely shade  
Sleep on the breast of Bowerhope Law ;

Then will the glowing suns of Spring,  
The genial shower and stealing dew,  
Wake every forest bird to sing,  
And every mountain flower renew.

But not the rainbow's ample ring,  
That spans the glen and mountain grey,  
Though fanned by western breeze's wing,  
And sunned by Summer's glowing ray,

To man decayed, can ever more  
Renew the age of love and glee !  
Can ever second spring restore  
To my old mountain Harp and me !

But when the hue of softened green  
Spreads over hill and lonely lea,  
And lowly primrose opes unseen  
Her virgin bosom to the bee ;

When hawthorns breathe their odours far,  
And carols hail the year's return ;

And daisy spreads her silver star  
Unheeded by the mountain burn ;

Then will I seek the aged thorn,  
The haunted wild and fairy ring,  
Where oft thy erring numbers borne  
Have taught the wandering winds to sing.

# NOTES

TO

## THE QUEEN'S WAKE.

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### NOTE I.

*Those wakes, now played by minstrels poor,  
At midnight's darkest, chilldest hour,  
Those humble wakes, now scorned by all,  
Were first begun in courtly hall.—Page 6.*

IN former days, the term *Wake* was only used to distinguish the festive meeting which took place on the evening previous to the dedication of any particular church or chapel. The company sat up all the night, and, in England, amused themselves in various ways, as their inclinations were by habit or study directed. In Scotland, however, which was always the land of music and of song, music and song were the principal, often the only, amusements of the Wake. These songs were generally of a sacred or serious nature, and were chanted to the old simple melodies of the country. *The Bush aboon Traquair, The Broom of Cowdenknows, John come kiss me now*, and many others, are still extant, set to the Psalms of David, and other spiritual songs, the Psalms being turned into a rude metre corresponding to the various measures of the tunes.

The difference in the application of the term which exists in the two sister kingdoms, sufficiently explains the consequences of the wakes in either. In England they have given rise to many fairs

and festivals of long standing; and, from that origin, every fair or festival is denominated a *wake*. In Scotland the term is not used to distinguish any thing either subsistent or relative, save those serenades played by itinerant and nameless minstrels in the streets and squares of Edinburgh, which are inhabited by the great and wealthy, after midnight, about the time of the Christmas holidays. These seem to be the only remainder of the ancient wakes now in Scotland, and their effect upon a mind that delights in music is soothing and delicious beyond all previous conception. A person who can relish the concord of sweet sounds, gradually recalled from sleep by the music of the wakes, of which he had no previous anticipation, never fails of being deprived, for a considerable time, of all recollection, what condition, what place, or what world he is in. The minstrels, who, in the reign of the Stuarts, enjoyed privileges which were even denied to the principal nobility, were, by degrees, driven from the tables of the great to the second, and afterwards to the common hall, that their music and songs might be heard, while they themselves were unseen. From the common hall they were obliged to retire to the porch or court; and so low has the characters of the minstrels descended, that the performers of the Christmas wakes are wholly unknown to the most part of those whom they serenade. They seem to be despised, but enjoy some small privileges, in order to keep up a name of high and ancient origin.

## NOTE II.

*There rode the lords of France and Spain,  
Of England, Flanders, and Lorraine,  
While serried thousands round them stood,  
From shore of Leith to Holyrood.—P. 9.*

Hollingshed describes Queen Mary's landing in Scotland, with her early misfortunes and accomplishments, after this manner: "She arrived at Leith the 20th of August, in the year of our Lord 1561, where she was honourably received by the Earl of Argyle,

the Lord Erskine, the Prior of St Andrew's, and the burgesses of Edinburgh, and conveyed to the Abbie of Holierood-house, for (as saith Buchanan) when some had spread abroad her landing in Scotland, the nobility and others assembled out of all parts of the realme, as it were to a common spectacle.

"This did they, partly to congratulate her return, and partly to show the dutie which they alwaies bear unto her (when she was absent,) either to have thanks therefor, or to prevent the slanders of the enemies; wherefore not a few, by these beginnings of her reign, did gesse what would follow, although, in those so variable notions of the minds of the people, every one was very desirous to see their Queen offered unto them (unlooked for,) after so many haps of both fortunes as had befallen her. For, when she was but six days old, she lost her father among the cruel tempests of battle, and was, with great diligence, brought up by her mother (being a chosen and worthy person,) but yet left as a prize to others, by reason of civil sedition in Scotland, and of outward wars with other nations, being further led abroad to all the dangers of frowning fortune, before she could know what evil did mean.

"For leaving her own country, she was nourished as a banished person, and hardly preserved in life from the weapons of her enemies, and violence of the seas. After which, fortune began to flatter her, in that she honoured her with a worthy marriage, which, in truth, was rather a shadow of joie to this queen, than any comfort at all. For, shortly after the same, all things were turned to sorrow, by the death of her new young husband, and of her old and grieved mother, by loss of her new kingdom, and by the doubtful possession of her old heritable realme. But as for these things she was both pitied and praised, so was she also for gifts of nature as much beloved and favoured, in that beneficial nature (or rather good God) had indued her with a beautiful face, a well composed body, an excellent wit, a mild nature, and good behaviour, which she had artificially furthered by courtly education, and affable demeanour. Whereby, at the first sight, she wan unto her the hearts of most, and confirmed the love of her faithful subjects."—*Hall*. p. 314. Arbroath Ed.

With regard to the music, which so deeply engaged her attention, we have different accounts by contemporaries, and those at com-

plete variance with one another. Knox says, "Fyres of joy were set furth at night, and a companie of maist honest men, with instruments of musick, gave ther salutation at hir chalmer windo: the melodie, as sche alledged, lyked her weill, and sche willed the same to be continued sum nychts efter with grit diligence." But Dufresnoy, who was one of the party who accompanied the Queen, gives a very different account of these Scottish minstrels. "We landed at Leith," says he, "and went from thence to Edinburgh, which is but a short league distant. The Queen went there on horseback, and the lords and ladies who accompanied her upon the little wretched hackneys of the country, and as wretchedly caparisoned; at sight of which the Queen began to weep, and to compare them with the pomp and superb palfreys of France. But there was no remedy but patience. What was worst of all, being arrived at Edinburgh, and retired to rest in the Abbey (which is really a fine building, and not at all partaking of the rudeness of that country, there came under her window a crew of five or six hundred scoundrels from the city, who gave her a serenade with wretched violins and little rebecks, of which there are enough in that country, and began to sing Psalms so miserably mistimed and mistuned, that nothing could be worse. Alas! what music! and what a night's rest!"

This Frenchman has had no taste for Scottish music—such another concert is certainly not in record.

### NOTE III.

*Ah! Kennedy, vengeance hangs over thine head!*

*Escape to thy native Glengary forlorn.*—P. 33.

The Clan Kennedy was only in the present age finally expelled from Glen-Gary, and forced to scatter over this and other countries. Its character among the Highlanders is that of the most savage and irreclaimable tribe that ever infested the mountains of the north.

## NOTE IV.

*The Witch of Fife.*--P. 43.

suffice to mention, once for all, that the catastrophe of as well as the principal events related in the tales of *Old* and *M'Gregor*, are all founded on popular traditions. So the romantic story of Kilmeny's disappearance and revisiting is, after being seven years in Fairyland. The tradition has a resemblance to the old ballads of Tam Linn and Thorceldon; and it is not improbable that all the three may have their origin from the same ancient romance.

## NOTE V.

*Glen-Avin.*—P. 63.

There are many scenes among the Grampian deserts which attract a traveller who ventures to explore them; and in the most vastes the most striking landscapes are often concealed. None exceeds them all in what may be termed stern and grandeur. It is indeed a sublime solitude, in which the chief feature is deformity; yet that deformity is mixed with wild beauty, such as an extensive lake, with its islets and straggling trees, and the spots of shaded green; and, all in all, it is such a scene as man has rarely looked upon. I spent a day in visiting it. The hills were clear of mist, yet the scene was extremely dark—the effect upon the scene exceeded description. My mind, during the whole day, experienced the sensation as if I had been in a dream; and on returning from the excursion, I did not wonder at the superstition of the ring inhabitants, who believe it to be the summer haunt of terrible tribes of fairies, and many other spirits, some of whom are said to be the most fantastic, and to behave in the most eccentric manner, of any I ever before heard of. Though the lake is upwards of twenty miles in length, and of prodigious ex-



tent, it contains no human habitation. It lies in the west of Banffshire, in the very middle of the Grampian hills.

## NOTE VI.

*Oft had that seer, at break of morn,  
Beheld the fahm glide o'er the fell.*—P. 64.

Fahm is a little ugly monster, who frequents the summits mountains around Glen-Avin, and no other place in the world I know of. My guide, D. M'Queen, declared that he had self seen him; and, by his description, Fahm appears to be a native of this world, but an occasional visitant, whose intention evil and dangerous. He is only seen about the break of day on the highest verge of the mountain. His head is twice as big as his whole body beside; and if any living creature crosses the mountain over which he has passed before the sun shine upon it, certain is the consequence. The head of that person or animal in begins to swell, grows to an immense size, and finally bursts. This disease is really incident to sheep on these heights, and in parts of the kingdom, where the grounds are elevated to a great height above the sea; but in no place save Glen-Avin is it blamed for it.

## NOTE VII.

*Even far on Yarrow's fairy dale,  
The shepherd paused in dumb dismay,  
There passing shrieks adown the vale  
Lured many a pitying kind away.*—P. 67.

It was reckoned a curious and unaccountable circumstance during the time of a great fall of snow by night, a cry, as of a son who had lost his way in the storm, was heard along the Ettrick from its head to its foot. What was the people's amazement, when it was authenticated, that upwards of twenty

He had been out with torches, lanthorns, &c., at the same hour of night, calling and searching after some unknown person, whom he believed perishing in the snow, and that none of them had discovered any such person.—The word spread; the circumstances were magnified—and the consternation became general. The people believed that a whole horde of evil spirits had been abroad in the valley, endeavouring to lure them abroad to their destruction—there was no man sure of his life!—Prayers and thanksgivings were offered up to Heaven in every hamlet, and resolutions unanimously formed, that no man perishing in the snow should ever be looked for again as long as the world stood.

When the astonishment had somewhat subsided by exhausting itself, and the tale of horror spread too wide ever to be recalled, a man, without the smallest reference to the phenomenon, chanced to mention, that on the night of the storm, when he was out on the hill turning his sheep to some shelter, a flock of swans passed over his head toward the western sea, which was a sure signal of severe weather; and that at intervals they were always shouting and answering one another, in an extraordinary, and rather fearful manner.—It was an unfortunate discovery, and marred the harmony of any evening's conversation! In whatever cot the circumstance was mentioned, the old shepherds rose and went out—the tinkers, who had listened to the prayers with reverence and fear, bit their lips—the matrons plied away at their wheels in silence.—It was singular that none of them should have known the voice of a swan from that of the devil!—they were very angry with the lad, and regarded him as a sort of blasphemer.

## NOTE VIII.

*See yon lone cairn, so grey with age,  
Above the base of proud Cairn-Gorm.—P. 69.*

I only saw this old cairn at a distance; but the narrative which my guide gave me of the old man's loss was very affecting. He had gone to the forest in November to look after some goats that were missing, when a dreadful storm came suddenly on, the effects

of which were felt throughout the kingdom. It was known that he was lost in the forest, but the snow being it was judged impossible to find the body, and no one knew it. It was not discovered until the harvest following, when found accidentally by a shepherd. The plaid and clothes were uppermost not being decayed, it appeared like the man lying entire; but when he began to move them, they rattled together, and the bare white skull was lying in the

#### NOTE IX.

##### *Old David.—P. 72.*

I remember hearing a very old man, named David Laived somewhere in the neighbourhood of Hawick, relate the adventures of this old moss-trooper, his great progenitor the first who ever bore the name. He described him as a champion—a man quite invincible; and quoted several ballads relating to him, which I never heard either before or since. I remember only one of them.

There was ane banna of barley meal  
Cam duntin dune by Davy's shiel,  
But out cam Davy and his lads,  
And dang the banna a' in blads.

He explained how this "bannock of barley meal" was a booty, which the old hero captured from a band of marauders who lived at Garwell in Eskdale-moor.

Lochy-Law, where the principal scene of this tale is laid, is on the lands of Shorthope in the wilds of Ettrick. Slack is up in the middle of the hill, a very curious ridge would be much more so when overshadowed with the Back-burn, which joins the Ettrick immediately below. It has been haunted time immemorial, both by the fairies and the ghost of a wandering minstrel who was cruelly murdered and who sleeps in a lone grave at a small distance from the f

## NOTE X.

*And fears of elf, and fairy raid,  
Have like a morning dream decayed.*—P. 83.

The fairies have now totally disappeared; and it is pity they should; for they seem to have been the most delightful little spirits that ever haunted the Scottish dells. There are only very few now remaining alive who have ever seen them; and when they did, it was on Hallow-evenings, while they were young, when the gospel was not very rife in the country. But, strange as it may appear, with the witches it is far otherwise. Never, in the most superstitious ages, was the existence of witches, or the influence of their diabolical power, more firmly believed in, than by the inhabitants of the mountains of Ettrick Forest at the present day. Many precautions and charms are used to avert this influence, and scarcely does a summer elapse in which there are not some of the most gross incantations practised, in order to free flocks and herds from the blasting power of these old hags. There are two farmers still living, who will both make oath that they have wounded several old wives with shot as they were traversing the air in the shapes of moor-fowl and partridges. A very singular amusement that for old wives!—I heard one of these *gentlemen* relate, with the utmost seriousness, and as a matter he did not wish to be generally known, that one morning, going out a fowling, he sprung a pair of moor-fowl in a place where it was not customary for moor-fowl to stay—he fired at the hen—wounded her, and eyed her until she alighted beyond an old dyke—when he went to the spot, his astonishment may be well conceived, when he found Nell ——— picking the hail out of her limbs! He was extremely vexed that he had not shot the cock, for he was almost certain he was no other than *Wat-the Grieve!!!*

The tales and anecdotes of celebrated witches, that are still related in the country, are extremely whimsical and diverting. The following is a *well-authenticated one*: A number of gentlemen were one day met for a chase on the lands of New-house and Kirkhope—their greyhounds were numerous and keen, but not a hare could

they rise. At length a boy came to them, who offered to start a hare to them, if they would give him a guinea, and the black greyhound to hold. The demand was singular, but it was peremptory, and on other conditions he would not comply. The guerdon was accordingly paid—the hare was started, and the sport afforded by the chase was excellent—the greyhounds were all baffled, and began to give up one by one, when one of the party came sily behind the boy, and cut the leash in which he held the black dog—away he flew to join the chase.—The boy, loosing all recollection, ran, bawling out with great vociferation, “Huy, mither, rin!!! Hay, rin, ye auld witch, if ever ye ran i’ yer life!! Rin, mither, rin!!!” The black dog came fast up with her, and was just beginning to *mouth* her, when she sprung in at the window of a little cottage and escaped. The riders soon came to the place, and entered the cot in search of the hare; but, lo! there was no living creature there but the old woman lying panting in a bed, so breathless that she could not speak a word!!!

But the best old witch tale that remains, is that which is related of the celebrated Michael Scott, Master of Oakwood. Sir Walter Scott has preserved it, but so altered from the original way, that it is not easy to recognise it. The old people tell it as follows. There was one of Mr Michael’s tenants who had a wife that was the most notable witch of the age. So extraordinary were her powers, that the country people began to put them in competition with those of the Master, and say, that in some *cantrips* she surpassed him. Michael could ill brook such insinuations; for there is always jealousy between great characters, and went over one day with his dogs on pretence of hunting, but in reality with an intent of exercising some of his infernal power in the chastisement. Lucky —— (I have the best reason in the world for concealing her reputed name.) He found her alone in the field weeding linen and desired her, in a friendly manner, to show him some of her powerful art. She was very angry with him, and denied that she had any supernatural skill. He, however, continuing to press her, she told him sharply to let her alone, else she would make him repent the day he troubled her. How she perceived the virtues of Michael’s wand is not known, but in a moment she snatched it from his hand, and gave him three lashes with it. The knight was m

mently changed to a hare, when the malicious and inveterate hag cried out, laughing, "Shu, Michael, rin or dee!" and baited all his own dogs upon him. He was extremely hard hunted, and was obliged to swim the river, and take shelter in the sewer of his own castle from the fury of his pursuers, where he got leisure to change himself again to a man.

Michael being extremely chagrined at having been thus outwitted, studied a deadly revenge; and going over afterwards to hunt, he sent his man to Fauldshope to borrow some bread from Lucky —— to give to his dogs, for that he had neglected to feed them before he came from home. If she gave him the bread, he was to thank her and come away; but if she refused it, he gave him a line written in red characters, which he was to lodge above the lintel as he came out. The servant found her baking of bread, as his master assured him he would, and delivered his message. She received him most ungraciously, and absolutely refused to give him any bread, alleging, as an excuse, that she had not as much as would serve her own reapers to dinner. The man said no more, but lodged the line as directed, and returned to his master. The powerful spell had the desired effect; Lucky —— instantly threw off her clothes, and danced round and round the fire like one quite mad, singing the while with great glee—

"Master Michael Scott's man  
Cam seekin bread an' gat nane."

The dinner hour arrived, but the reapers looked in vain for their dame, who was wont to bring it to them to the field. The goodman sent home a servant girl to assist her, but neither did she return. At length he ordered them to go and take their dinner at home, for he suspected his spouse had taken some of her *tirravies*. All of them went inadvertently into the house, and, as soon as they passed beneath the mighty charm, were seized with the same mania, and followed the example of their mistress. The goodman, who had tarried behind, setting some shocks of corn, came home last; and hearing the noise ere ever he came near the house, he did not venture to go in, but peeped in at the window. There he beheld all his people dancing naked round and round the fire, and singing, "Master Michael Scott's man," with the most frantic wildness.

His wife was by that time quite exhausted, and the rest were half trailing her around. She could only now and then pronounce a syllable of the song, which she did with a kind of scream, yet seemed as intent on the sport as ever.

The goodman mounted his horse, and rode with all speed to the Master, to inquire what he had done to his people which had put them all mad. Michael bade him take down the note from the lintel and burn it, which he did, and all the people returned to their senses. Poor Lucky —— died overnight, and Michael remained unmatched and alone in all the arts of enchantment and necromancy.

#### NOTE XI.

##### *The Spectre's Cradle Song.*—P. 89.

I mentioned formerly that the tale of M'Gregor is founded on a popular Highland tradition—so also is this Song of the Spectre in the introduction to it, which, to me at least, gives it a peculiar interest. As I was once travelling up Glen-Dochart, attended by Donald Fisher, a shepherd of that country, he pointed out to me some curious green dens, by the side of the large rivulet which descends from the back of Ben-More, the name of which, in the Gaelic language, signifies *the abode of the fairies*. A native of that country, who is still living, happening to be benighted there one summer evening, without knowing that the place was haunted, wrapped himself in his plaid, and lay down to sleep till the morning. About midnight he was awaked by the most enchanting music; and on listening, he heard it to be the voice of a woman singing to her child. She sung the verses twice over, so that next morning he had several of them by heart. Fisher had heard them often recited in Gaelic, and he said they were wild beyond human conception. He remembered only a few lines, which were to the same purport with the Spirit's Song here inserted, namely, that she (the singer) had brought her babe from the regions below to be cooled by the breeze of the world, and that they would soon be obliged to part, for the child was going to heaven, and she was to

r a season in purgatory. I had not before heard any thing romantic.

## NOTE XII.

*the pine, which for ages had shed a bright halo  
on the mountains of Highland Glen-Falo,  
did wither and fall ere the turn of yon moon,  
through by the canker of hated Colquhoun.—P. 92.*

ne was the standard, and is still the crest of the M'Gregor—it is well known that the proscription of that clan was occasioned by a slaughter of the Colquhouns, who were its constant hereditary enemies. That bloody business let loose the vengeance upon them, which had nearly extirpated the clan. The Campbells and the Grahams arose and hunted them like wild beasts, until a M'Gregor could no more be found.

## NOTE XIII.

*Earl Walter.—P. 96.*

Mad is founded on a well-known historical fact. Hollinghead tells it slightly in the following words: "A Frenchman, Anthony Darcie, knight, called afterwards *Le Sir de la Darcie*, came through England into Scotland, to seek feats of arms. Arriving to the king the four and twentieth of September, the knight fought with him right valiantly, and so as neither lost any piece of honour."

## NOTE XIV.

*From this the Hamiltons of Clyde  
Their royal lineage draw.—P. 106.*

Princess Margaret of Scotland was married to the Lord of Albany when only sixteen years of age, who received the earldom



dom of Arran as her dowry. Hollingshed says "Of this marriage, those of the house of Hamilton are descended, and are nearest of blood to the crown of Scotland, as they pretend, for (as saith Lesleus, lib. viii. p. 316.) if the line of the Stuarts fail, the crown is to come to them."

#### NOTE XV.

##### *Kilmory.*—P. 109.

Beside the old tradition on which this ballad is founded, there are some modern incidents of a similar nature, which cannot well be accounted for, yet are as well attested as any occurrence that has taken place in the present age. The relation may be amusing to some readers.

A man in the parish of Traquair, and county of Peebles, was busied one day casting turf in a large open field opposite to the mansion-house—the spot is well known, and still pointed out as rather unsafe; his daughter, a child seven years of age, was playing beside him, and amusing him with her prattle. Chancing to ask a question at her, he was surprised at receiving no answer, and, looking behind him, he perceived that his child was not there. He always averred that, as far as he could remember, she had been talking to him about half a minute before; he was certain it was not above a whole one at most. It was in vain that he ran searching all about like one distracted, calling her name;—no trace of her remained. He went home in a state of mind that may be better conceived than expressed, and raised the people of the parish, who searched for her several days with the same success. Every pool in the river, every bush and den on the mountains around was searched in vain. It was remarked that the father never much encouraged the search, being thoroughly persuaded that she was carried away by some invisible being, else she could not have vanished so suddenly. As a last resource, he applied to the minister of Inverleithen, a neighbouring divine of exemplary piety and zeal in religious matters, who enjoined him to cause prayers be offered to God for her in seven Christian churches, next Sabbath, at

me instant of time; "and then," said he, "if she is dead, I will forgive our sin in praying for the dead, as we do it through grace; and if she is still alive, I will answer for it, that all the devils in hell shall be unable to keep her." The injunction was fully attended to. She was remembered in the prayers of all neighbouring congregations, next Sunday, at the same hour, never were there such prayers for fervour heard before. There was the divine in particular, Mr Davidson, who prayed in such a manner that all the hearers trembled. As the old divine foretold, so it fell out. On that very day, and within an hour of the time when these prayers were offered, the girl was found in the wood, sitting, picking the bark from a tree. She could give a perfect account of the circumstances which had befallen to her, she said she did not want plenty of meat, for that her mother had fed her with milk and bread several times a-day, and never to sleep at night. Her skin had acquired a bluish cast, and wore gradually off in the course of a few weeks. Her name was Jane Brown; she lived to a very advanced age, and was known to be still alive. Every circumstance of this story is truth, if the report of the suddenness of her disappearance may be taken on.

Another circumstance, though it happened still later, is not less remarkable. A shepherd of Tushilaw, in the parish of Ettrick, whose name was Walter Dalgleish, went out to the heights of that parish one Sabbath morning, to herd the young sheep for his son, and to take him to church. He took his own dinner along with him, and his son's breakfast. When the sermons were over, the lad went straight home, and did not return to his father. Night came, and nothing of the old shepherd appeared. When it grew very late his son came home—seemed terrified, and refused to take any meat. His family were ill at ease during the night, especially as they had known his dog leave him before; and early next morning the lad arose and went to the height, to look after his father and his flock. He found his sheep all scattered, and his father's gun unbroken, lying on the same spot where they had parted the day before. At the distance of 20 yards from the spot, the plaid of the old man wore was lying as if it had been flung from him, a little farther on, in the same direction, his bonnet was found,

but nothing of himself. The country people, as on all such sions, rose in great numbers, and searched for him many My father, and several old men still alive, were of the party could not be found or heard of, neither dead nor alive, a length they gave up all thoughts of ever seeing him more.

On the 20th day after his disappearance, a shepherd's wife place called Berry-bush, came in as the family was sitting d dinner, and said, that if it were possible to believe that Walt gleish was still in existence, she would say yonder was he c down the hill. They all ran out to watch the phenomenc as the person approached nigher, they perceived that it was ally he, walking without his plaid and his bonnet. The where he was first descried is not a mile distant from that he was last seen, and there is neither brake, hag, nor bush. he came into the house, he shook hands with them all—as his family, and spoke as if he had been absent for years, and convinced something had befallen them. As they perceived thing singular in his looks and manner, they unfortunately f asking him any questions at first, but desired him to sit and their dinner. This he readily complied with, and began some broth with seeming eagerness. He had only taken one spoonfuls when he suddenly stopped, a kind of rattling noi heard in his breast, and he sunk back in a faint. They pu to bed, and from that time forth he never spoke another wor any person could make sense of. He was removed to hi home, where he lingered a few weeks, and then died. Wh fel him remains to this day a mystery, and for ever must.

#### NOTE XVI.

*But oft the listening group stood still,  
For spirits talked along the hill.—P. 125.*

The echoes of evening, which are occasioned by the vol mirth of different parties not aware of each other, have a c and striking effect. I have known some country people te almost out of their senses at hearing voices and laughter :

fit, where they knew it impossible for human being to reach. Some of the echoes around Edinburgh are extremely grand; what could they then be were the hills covered with wood? I have witnessed nothing more romantic than from a situation behind the abbance, where all the noises of the city are completely hushed, hear the notes of the drum, trumpet, and bugle, poured from the cliffs of Salisbury, and the viewless cannons thundering from the sky. The effect is truly sublime.

## NOTE XVII.

*Mary Scott.*—P. 127.

This ballad is founded on the old song of *The Grey Goss-hawk*. The catastrophe is the same, and happens at the same place, namely in St Mary's church-yard. The castle of Tushilaw, where the scene of the tale is laid, stood on a shelf of the hill which overlooks the junction of the rivers Ettrick and Rankleburn. It is a singular situation, and seems to have been chosen for the extensive prospect of the valley, which it commands both to the east and west. It was the finest old baronial castle of which the west can boast, but the upper arches and turrets fell in, of late years, with a crash that alarmed the whole neighbourhood. It is now a huge heap of ruins. Its last inhabitant was Adam Scott, who was long denominated in the south the *King of the Border*, and the courtiers called him the *King of Thieves*. King James VI. acted upon the same principle with these powerful chiefs, most of whom disregarded his authority, as Buonaparte did with the sovereigns of Europe. He always managed matters so as to take each of them single-handed—made a rapid and secret march—overthrew one or two of them, and then returned directly home when matters were ripe for taking the advantage of some other. He marched on one day from Edinburgh to Meggatdale, accompanied by a chosen body of horsemen, surprised Peres Cockburn, a bold and capricious outlaw who tyrannized over those parts, hanged him for his own gate, sacked and burnt his castle of Henderland, and divided his lands between two of his principal followers, Sir James

Stuart and the Lord Hume. From Henderland he marched across the mountains by a wild unfrequented path, still called *the King's Road*, and appeared before the gates of Tushilaw about sun-rise. Scott was completely taken by surprise; he, however, rushed to arms with his few friends who were present, and, after a desperate but unequal conflict, King James overcame him, plundered his castle of riches and stores to a prodigious amount, hanged the old Border King over a huge tree which is still growing in the corner of the castle-yard, and over which he himself had hanged many a one, carried his head with him in triumph to Edinburgh, and placed it on a pole over one of the ports. There was a long and deadly feud between the Scotts and the Kers in those days; the Pringles, Murrays, and others around, always joined with the latter, in order to keep down the too powerful Scotts, who were not noted as the best of neighbours.

#### NOTE XVIII.

##### *King Edward's Dream.*—P. 157.

The scene of this ballad is on the banks of the Eden in Cumberland, a day's march from Burgh, on the sands of Solway, where King Edward I. died, in the midst of an expedition against the Scots, in which he had solemnly sworn to extirpate them as a nation.

#### NOTE XIX.

##### *Dumlanrig.*—P. 163.

This ballad relates to a well-known historical fact, of which tradition has preserved an accurate and feasible detail. The battles took place two or three years subsequent to the death of King James V. I have heard that it is succinctly related by some historian, but I have forgot who it is. Hollingshed gives a long running account of the matter, but places the one battle a year before

be other; whereas it does not appear that Lennox made two excursions into Nithsdale, at the head of the English forces, or fought two bloody battles with the laird of Dumlanrig on the same ground, as the historian would insinuate. He says, that Dumlanrig, after pursuing them cautiously for some time, was overthrown in attempting to cross a ford of the river too rashly; that he lost two of his principal kinsmen, and two hundred of his followers; had several pears broken upon his body, and escaped only by the goodness of his horse. The battle, which took place next night, he relates as having happened next year; but it must be visible to every reader that he is speaking of the same incidents in the annals of both years. In the second engagement he acknowledges that Dumlanrig defeated the English horse, which he attributes to a desertion from the latter, but that, after pursuing them as far as Dalswinton, they were joined by the foot, and retrieved the day. The account given of the battles, by Lesleus and Fran. Thin, seems to have been so different, that they have misled the chronologer; the names of the towns and villages appearing to him so different, whereas a local knowledge of the country would have convinced him that both accounts related to the same engagement.

## NOTE XX.

*McKinnon, the Abbot.*—P. 183.

To describe the astonishing scenes to which this romantic tale relates, Icolmkill and Staffa, so well known to the curious, would only be multiplying pages to no purpose. By the Temple of the Ocean is meant the isle of Staffa, and by its chancel the Cave of Fingal.

## NOTE XXI.

*O, wise was the founder, and well said he,  
 "Where there are women, mischief must be!"*—P. 188

St Columba placed the nuns in an island at a little d from I, as the natives call Iona. He would not suffer either a man or a woman to set foot on it; "for where there are cows," "there must be women; and where there are women, there must be mischief."

## NOTE XXII.

*The Harp of Ettrick rung again.* P. 202.

That some notable bard flourished in Ettrick Forest in the 16th century is evident, from the numerous ballads and songs which are found in places in that country, and incidents that happened there. Some of these are of a very superior cast. *Outlaw Murray, Young Lean of Carterhaugh, Jamie Telfer i' the fair Dodhet Dowy Downs of Yarrow*, and many others, are of the 16th century. Dunbar, in his Lament for the Bards, merely mentions his title of *Ettrick*; more of him we know not.

## NOTE XXIII.

*Gardyn is crowned with garlands gay,  
 And bears the envied prize away.*—P. 202.

Queen Mary's harp, of most curious workmanship, was in the house of Lude, on the banks of the Garry in Athol, as the old Caledonian harp. They were both brought to that house by the bride, which the chieftain of Lude married from the family of Banchorry (now Garden of Troup). It was defaced with ornaments, and Queen Mary's portrait, set in gold and jew

ne of the last rebellion. How it came into the possession nily is not known, at least traditions vary considerably re incident. But there is every reason to suppose, that it i in consequence of some musical excellency in one or ie Gardyns; for it may scarcely be deemed, that the royal ld confer so rich and so curious an instrument on one make no use of it. So far does the tale correspond with there is, besides, a farther coincidence, of which I was usly aware. I find, that Queen Mary actually gave a at at Holyrood-house at the very time specified in the ere great proficiency was displayed both in music and

## NOTE XXIV.

-is a Scots Lowland term, and used to distinguish all as are scooped out on one side in form of a crescent. The he hill, or that portion which lies within the lunated verge, denominated *the oomb*.

## NOTE XXV.

is likewise a Lowland term, and denotes the snout, or hill; but the part so denominated is always understood to ticular form, broad at the base, and contracted to a point ach of these terms conveys to the mind a strong picture e so designed. Both are very common.

## NOTE XXVI.

signifies a detached hill of any description, but more gen- as are of a round or conical form. It seems to bear the ptation in the Lowlands of Scotland, as *Ben* does in the . The term is supposed to have had its derivation from



the circumstances of the ancient inhabitants of the country disputing the *law* on the tops of such hills; and where no one of this form was nigh, artificial mounds were raised in the neighbourhood of towns for that purpose. Hence they were originally called *La hille*; but, by a natural and easy contraction, the *laws* and the *hi* of the country came to signify the same thing. A little affinity may still be traced;—both were effective in impeding the progress of a hostile invader; while the hardy native surmounted both without difficulty, and without concern.

#### NOTE XXVII.

*Glen*—is a term common to every part of Scotland alike, and invariably denotes the whole course of a mountain stream, with the hills and valleys on each side to the first summit. It is an indefinite term, and describes no particular size, or local appearance of a river, or the scenery contiguous to it, farther than that it is one, and inclined to be narrow and confined between the hills, these glens being from one to thirty miles in length, and proportionably dissimilar in other respects. By a *Glen*, however, is generally to be understood a branch of a greater river. The course of the great river is denominated the *Strath*, as Strath-Tay, Strath-Spey, &c.; and the lesser rivers, which communicate with these, are the *Glens*. There may be a few exceptions from this general rule, but they are of no avail as affecting the acceptance of the term whenever it is used as descriptive.

#### NOTE XXVIII.

*Strone*.—(Only once used.)—A *Strone* is that hill which terminates the range. It is a Highland term, but common in the middle districts of Scotland.

## NOTE XXIX.

*Ben*—is likewise a Highland term, and denotes a mountain of a pyramidal form, which stands unconnected with others.

## NOTE XXX.

*Dale*—is the course of a Lowland river, with its adjacent hills and valleys. It conveys the same meaning as Strath does in the Highlands.

## NOTE XXXI.

*Wale*—(only once used)—is a Hebridean term, and signifies the verge or brim of the mountain. It is supposed to be modern, and used only in those maritime districts, as having a reference to the gunnel, or wale of a ship or boat.

## NOTE XXXII.

*Cory* or *Correi*—is a northern term, and is invariably descriptive of a green hollow part of the mountain, from which a rivulet descends.

## NOTE XXXIII.

If there is any other word or term peculiar to Scotland, I am not aware of it. The Songs of the true bards, indeed, who affect to imitate the ancient manner, abound with old Scotch words and terms, which, it is presumed, the rythm, the tenor of the verse, and the narrative will illustrate, though they may not be found in any glossary of that language. These are, indeed, generally so notoriously deficient and absurd, that it is painful for any one conversant in the genuine old provincial dialect to look into them.

Ignorant, however, as I am of every dialect save my mother tongue, I imagine that I understand so much of the English lan-

guage as to perceive that its muscular strength consists in the energy of its primitive stem—in the trunk from which all its foliage hath sprung, and around which its exuberant tendrils are all entwined and interwoven—I mean the remains of the ancient Teutonic. On the strength of this conceived principle, which may haply be erroneous, I have laid it down as a maxim, that the greater number of these old words and terms that can be introduced with propriety into our language, the better. To this my casual innovations must be attributed. The authority of Grahame and Scott has of late rendered a few of these old terms legitimate. If I had been as much master of the standard language as they, I would have introduced ten times more.

#### NOTE XXXIV.

The following Poem was inserted by the Publisher of the Second Edition, as illustrative of some of the Songs in the Work. It was written and sent to him by R. Barton, Esq. Woodbridge, Suffolk.

SHEPHERD of Ettrick! as of yore  
To humble swains the Seraph sung,  
Again, though now unseen, they pour  
Their hallowed strains from mortal tongue.

For, O! celestial are the tones  
The minstrel strikes to Malcolm's sorrow;  
When Jura, echoing back his moans,  
Claims the lost maiden of Glen-Ora.

Soft dies the strain; the chords now ring,  
Swept by a more impetuous hand;  
Indignant Gardyn strikes the string,  
And terror chills the listening band.

Now from the cliffs of old Cairn-Gorm  
Dark gathering clouds the tempest bring;

He comes, the Spirit of the Storm!  
And at the rustling of his wing,

The harp's wild notes, now high, now low,  
In varying cadence swell or fall,  
Like wintry winds in wild Glencoe,  
Or ruined Bothwell's roofless hall.

A wilder strain is wafted near  
As from the regions of the sky;  
And where's the mortal that can hear  
Unmoved the Spectre's lullaby?

To weave the due reward of praise  
For every rival bard were vain;  
Nor suits an humble poet's lays,  
Who loves, yet fears a loftier strain.

Yet must I pause upon the tale  
Of that strange bark for Staffa bound;  
Proudly she greets the morning gale,  
Proudly she sails from holy ground.

O, never yet has ship that traced  
The pathless bosom of the main,  
Been with such magic numbers graced,  
Or honoured with so sweet a strain.

But who, that sees the morning rise  
Serenely bright, can tell the hour  
When the rough tempest of the skies  
Shall next display its awful power?

And who, that sees the floating bark  
Sail forth obedient to the gale,  
Foresees the impending horrors dark  
That swell the terror of the tale?

Nor can I pass in silence by  
That favoured maiden's wondrous doom,  
Who, 'neath a self-illuminated sky,  
Saw fields and flowers in endless bloom.

O Heaven-taught Shepherd! when or where  
Was that ethereal legend wrought?  
What urged thee thus a flight to dare  
Through realms by former bards unsought?

Say, hast thou, like Kilmeny, been  
Transported to the land of thought;  
And thence, by minstrel vision keen,  
The fire of inspiration caught?

It must be so: in cottage lone,  
To dreams of poesy resigned,  
From Ettrick's banks thy soul has flown,  
And earth-born follies left behind.

Then through those scenes Kilmeny saw,  
In trance ecstatic hast thou roved,  
And witnessed, but with holy awe,  
What mortal fancy never proved.

O Shepherd! since 'tis thine to boast  
The fascinating powers of song,  
Far, far above the countless host,  
Who swell the Muses' suppliant throng.

The GIFT OF GOD distrust no more,  
His inspiration be thy guide;  
Be heard thy harp from shore to shore,  
Thy song's reward thy country's pride.

*Woodbridge, April 21, 1818.*

## ELEN OF REIGH.

---

HAVE you never heard of Elen of Reigh,  
The fairest flower of the North Countrie?  
The maid that left all maidens behind,  
In all that was lovely, sweet, and kind :  
As sweet as the breeze o'er beds of balm,  
As happy and gay as the gamesome lamb,  
As light as the feather that dances on high,  
As blithe as the lark in the breast of the sky,  
As modest as young rose that blossoms too soon,  
As mild as the breeze on a morning of June ;  
Her voice was the music's softest key,  
And her form the comeliest symmetry.

But let bard describe her smile who can,  
For that is beyond the power of man ;  
There never was pen that hand could frame,  
Nor tongue that falter'd at maiden's name,  
Could once a distant tint convey  
Of its lovely and benignant ray.  
You have seen the morning's folding vest  
Hang dense and pale upon the east,

As if an angel's hand had strewn  
The dawning's couch with the eider down  
And shrouded with a curtain gray  
The cradle of the infant day ?  
And 'mid this orient dense and pale,  
Through one small window of the vale,  
You have seen the sun's first radiant hue  
Lightening the dells and vales of dew,  
With smile that seem'd through glory's r  
From dwellings of the cherubim ;  
And you have thought, with holy awe,  
A lovelier sight you never saw,  
Scorning the heart who dared to doubt i  
Alas ! you little knew about it !  
At beauty's shrine you ne'er have knelt,  
Nor felt the flame that I have felt ;  
Nor chanced the virgin smile to see  
Of beauty's model, Elen of Reigh !

When sunbeams on the river blaze,  
You on its glory scarce can gaze ;  
But when the moon's delirious beam,  
In giddy splendour woos the stream,  
Its mellow'd light is so refined,  
'Tis like a gleam of soul and mind ;  
Its gentle ripple glittering by,  
Like twinkle of a maiden's eye ;  
While, all amazed at heaven's steepness,  
You gaze into its liquid deepness,  
And see some beauties that excel—  
Visions ' to dream of, not to tell'—  
A downward soul of living hue,  
So mild, so modest, and so blue !

What am I raving of just now ?  
Forsooth, I scarce can say to you—  
A moonlight river beaming by,  
Or holy depth of virgin's eye ;  
Unconscious bard ! what perilous dreaming !  
Is nought on earth to thee beseeming !  
Will nothing serve, but beauteous women ?—  
No, nothing else. But 'tis strange to me,  
If you never heard aught of Elen of Reigh.

But whenever you breathe the breeze of balm,  
Or smile at the frolics of the lamb,  
Or watch the stream by the light of the moon,  
Or weep for the rosebud that opes too soon,  
Or when any beauty of this creation  
Moves your delight or admiration,  
You then may try, whatever it be,  
That to compare with Elen of Reigh :  
But never presume that lovely creature  
Once to compare with aught in nature ;  
For earth has neither form nor face  
Which heart can ween or eye can trace,  
That once comparison can stand  
With Elen, the flower of fair Scotland.

'Tis said that angels are passing fair  
And lovely beings : I hope they are :  
But for all their beauty of form and wing  
If lovelier than the maid I sing,  
They needs must be—I cannot tell—  
Something beyond all parallel ;  
Something admitted, not believed,  
*Which heart of man had ne'er conceived ;*



But these are beings of mental bliss,  
Not things to love, and soothe, and kiss.—  
There is something dear, say as we will  
In winsome human nature still.

Elen of Reigh was the flower of our wild,  
Elen of Reigh was an only child,  
A motherless lamb, in childhood thrown  
On bounteous Nature, and her alone ;  
But who can mould like that mighty dame  
The mind of fervour and mounting flame,  
The mind that beams with a glow intense  
For fair and virtuous excellence !  
Not one ! though many a mighty name,  
High margin'd on the lists of fame,  
Has blazon'd her ripe tuition high,—  
The world has own'd it, and well may I !  
But most of all that right had she,  
The flower of our mountains, fair Elen of Reigh.

But human life is like a river—  
Its brightness lasts not on for ever—  
That dances from its native braes,  
As pure as maidhood's early days ;  
But soon, with dark and sullen motion,  
It rolls into its funeral ocean,  
And those whose currents are the slightest,  
And shortest run, are aye the brightest :  
So is our life—its latest wave  
Rolls dark and solemn to the grave ;  
And soon o'ercast was Elen's day,  
And changed, as must my sportive lay.

When beauty is in its rosy prime,  
 There is something sacred and sublime,  
 To see all living worth combined  
 In such a lovely being's mind ;  
 Each thing for which we would wish to live,  
 Each grace, each virtue Heaven can give.  
 Such being was Elen, if such can be ;  
 A faith unstain'd, a conscience free,  
 Pure Christian love and charity,—  
 All breath'd in such a holy strain,  
 The hearts of men could not refrain  
 From wonder at what they heard and saw ;  
 Even greatest sinners stood in awe,  
 At seeing a form and soul unshadow'd—  
 A model for the walks of maidhood.

You will feel a trembling wish to know,  
 If such a being could e'er forego  
 Her onward path of heavenly aim,  
 To love a thing of mortal frame.  
 Ah ! never did heart in bosom dwell,  
 That loved so warmly and so well,  
 Or with such ligaments profound  
 Was twined another's heart around !  
 But blush not—dread not, I entreat,  
 Nor tremble for a thing so sweet.

Not comely youth, with downy chin,  
 Nor manhood's goodlier form, could win  
 One wistful look, or dewdrop sheen,  
 From eye so heavenly and serene.  
 Her love, that with her life began,  
 Was set on thing more pure than man—  
 Vol. I.

'Twas on a virgin, of like mind,  
As pure, as gentle, as refined ;  
They in one cradle slept when young,  
Were taught by the same blessed tongue,  
Aye smiled each other's face to see,  
Were nursed upon the self-same knee,  
And the first word each tongue could frame  
Was a loved playmate's cheering name.

- Like two young poplars of the vale,  
Like two young twin roes of the dale,  
They grew ; and life had no alloy—  
Their fairy path was all of joy.
- They danced, they sung, they play'd, they roved,  
And Oh, how dearly as they loved!  
While in that love, with reverence due,  
Their God and their Redeemer too  
Were twined,—which made it the sincerer,  
And still the holier and the dearer.

Each morning, when they woke from sleep,  
They kneel'd, and pray'd with reverence deep ;  
Then raised their sightly forms so trim,  
And sung their little morning hymn.

Then tripping joyfully and bland,  
They to the school went, hand in hand ;  
Came home as blithsome and as bright,  
And slept in other's arms each night.

Sure in such sacred bonds to live  
Nature has nothing more to give.

So loved they on, and still more dear,  
From day to day, from year to year ;  
And when their flexile forms began  
To take the mould so loved by man,  
They blush'd—embraced each other less,  
And wept at their own loveliness,  
As if their bliss were overcast,  
And days of feelings pure were past.

But who can fathom or reprove  
The counsels of the God of love,  
Or stay the mighty hand of Him  
Who dwells between the cherubim ?  
No man nor angel : all must be  
Submiss to his supreme decree.  
And so it happ'd that this fair maid,  
In all her virgin charms array'd,  
Just when upon the verge she stood  
Of bright and seemly womanhood,  
From this fair world was call'd away,  
In mildest and in gentlest way,—  
Fair world indeed ; but still akin  
To much of sorrow and of sin.

Poor Elen watch'd the parting strife  
Of her she loved far more than life ;  
The placid smile that strove to tell  
To her beloved that all was well.  
Oh many a holy thing they said,  
And many a prayer together pray'd,  
And many a hymn, both morn and even,  
Was breathed upon the breeze of heaven,

Which Hope, on wings of sacred love,  
Presented at the gates above.

The last words into ether melt,  
The last squeeze of the hand is felt,  
And the last breathings, long apart,  
Like aspirations of the heart,  
Told Elen that she now was left,  
A thing of love and joy bereft—  
A sapling from its parent torn,  
A rose upon a widow'd thorn,  
A twin roe, or bewilder'd lamb,  
Reft both of sister and of dam—  
How could she weather out the strife  
And sorrows of this mortal life !

The last rites of funeral gloom,—  
The pageant heralds of the tomb,  
That more in form than feeling tell  
The sorrows of the last farewell,—  
Are all observed with decent care,  
And but one soul of grief was there.  
The virgin mould, so mild and meet,  
Is roll'd up in its winding sheet ;  
Affection's yearnings form'd the rest,  
The dead rose rustles on the breast,  
The wrists are bound with bracelet bands,  
The pallid gloves are on the hands,  
And all the flowers the maid held dear  
Are strew'd within her gilded bier ;  
A hundred sleeves with lawn are pale,  
A hundred crapes wave in the gale,

And, in a motley, mix'd array  
The funeral train winds down Glen-Reigh.  
Alack ! how shortly thoughts were lasting  
Of the grave to which they all were hasting !

The grave is open ; the mourners gaze  
On bones and skulls of former days ;  
The pall's withdrawn—in letters sheen,  
“ Maria Gray—aged eighteen,”  
Is read by all with heaving sighs  
And ready hands to moisten'd eyes.  
Solemn and slow, the bier is laid  
Into its deep and narrow bed,  
And the mould rattles o'er the dead !

What sound like that can be conceived ?  
That thunder to a soul bereaved !  
When crumbling bones grate on the bier  
Of all the bosom's core held dear ;  
Tis like a growl of hideous wrath—  
The last derisive laugh of Death  
Over his victim that lies under ;  
The heart's last bands then rent asunder,  
And no communion more to be  
Till time melt in Eternity !

From that dread moment Elen's soul  
Seem'd to outfly its earthly goal ;  
And her refined and subtile frame,  
Uplifted by unearthly flame,  
Seem'd soul alone—in likelihood,  
A spirit made of flesh and blood—

A thing whose being and whose bliss  
Were bound to better world than this.

Her face, that with new lustre beam'd,  
Like features of a seraph seem'd ;  
A meekness, mix'd with a degree  
Of fervid, wild sublimity,  
Mark'd all her actions and her moods.  
She sought the loneliest solitudes,  
By the dingly dell or the silver spring,  
Her holy hymns of the dead to sing ;  
For all her songs and language bland  
Were of a loved and heavenly land—  
A land of saints and angels fair,  
And of a late dear dweller there ;  
But, watch'd full often, ears profane  
Once heard the following solemn strain :—

*Maria Gray. A Song.*

Who says that Maria Gray is dead,  
And that I in this world can see her never ?  
Who says she is laid in her cold death-bed,  
The prey of the grave and of death for ever ?  
Ah ! they know little of my dear maid,  
Or kindness of her spirit's giver !  
For every night she is by my side,  
By the morning bower, or the moonlight river

Maria was bonny, when she was here,  
When flesh and blood was her mortal dwelling ;  
Her smile was sweet, and her mind was clear,  
And her form all human forms excelling.

At oh ! if they saw Maria now,  
 With her looks of pathos and of feeling,  
 They would see a cherub's radiant brow,  
 To ravish'd mortal eyes unveiling !

He rose is the fairest of earthly flowers—  
 It is all of beauty and of sweetness—  
 O my dear maid, in the heavenly bowers,  
 Excels in beauty and in meetness.  
 He has kiss'd my cheek, she has kemb'd my hair,  
 And made a breast of heaven my pillow,  
 And promised her God to take me there,  
 Before the leaf falls from the willow.

Farewell, ye homes of living men !  
 I have no relish for your pleasures—  
 In the human face I nothing ken  
 That with my spirit's yearning measures :  
 Long for onward bliss to be,  
 A day of joy, a brighter morrow ;  
 And from this bondage to be free.  
 Farewell, thou world of sin and sorrow !



O great was the wonder, and great was the dread,  
 Of the friends of the living, and friends of the dead ;  
 For every evening and morning were seen  
 Two maidens, where only one should have been !  
 Their hand in hand they moved, and sung  
 Their hymns, on the walks they trode when young ;  
 And one night some of the watcher train  
 Were said to have heard this holy strain



Wafted upon the trembling air.  
It was sung by one, although two were the

Hymn over a Dying Virgin.

“ O THOU whom once thy redeeming love  
Brought'st down to earth from the throne  
Stretch forth thy cup of salvation free  
To a thirsty soul, that longs for Thee !  
O thou who left'st the realms of day,  
Whose blessed head in a manger lay,  
See her here prostrate before thy throne,  
Who trusts in Thee, and in Thee alone !

“ O thou, who once, as thy earthly rest,  
Wert cradled on a virgin's breast,  
For the sake of one who held thee dear,  
Extend thy love to this virgin here !  
Thou Holy One, whose blood was spilt  
Upon the Cross, for human guilt,  
This humbled virgin's longings see,  
And take her soul in peace to Thee !”

---

That very night the mysterious dame  
Not home to her father's dwelling came ;  
Though her maidens sat in chill dismay,  
And watch'd and call'd, till the break of day  
But in the dawning, with fond regard,  
They sought the bower where the song was  
And found her form stretch'd on the green  
The loveliest corpse that ever was seen.

She lay as in balmy sleep reposed.  
While her lips and eyes were sweetly closed,  
As if about to awake and speak ;  
For a dimpling smile was on her cheek,  
And the pale rose there had a gentle glow,  
Like the morning's tint on a wreath of snow.

All was so seemly and serene,  
As she lay composed upon the green  
It was plain to all that no human aid,  
But an angel's hand, had the body laid ;  
For from her form there seem'd to rise,  
The sweetest odours of Paradise.  
Around her temples and brow so fair,  
White roses were twined in her auburn hair ;  
All bound with a birch and holly band,  
And the book of God was in her right hand.

Farewell, ye flowerets of sainted fame,  
Ye sweetest maidens of mortal frame ;  
A sacred love o'er your lives presided,  
And in your deaths you were not divided !  
O, blessed are they who bid adieu  
To this erring nature as pure as you !

## THE GOOD MAN OF ALLOA

---

Did you never hear of a queer auld man,  
A very strange man was he,  
Who dwelt on the bonny banks of Forth,  
In a town full dear to me ?

But if all be true, as I heard tell,  
And as I shall tell to thee,  
There was never such a thing befell  
To a man in this countrie.

One day he sat on a lonely brae,  
And sorely he made his moan,  
For his youthful days had pass'd away,  
And ronkilt age came on ;

And he thought of the lightsome days of love  
And joyful happy souls,  
Quhill the tears ran ower the auld man's cheek  
And down on his button holes.

" Ochone, ochone !" quod the poor auld man,

" Where shall I go lay mine head ?

For I am weary of this world,

And I wish that I were dead ;

" That I were dead, and in my grave,

Where cares could not annoy,

And my soul safely in a land

Of riches and of joy.

" Yet would I like ane cozy bed

To meet the stroke of death,

With a holy psalm sung ower mine head,

And swoofit with my last breath.

" With a kind hand to close mine eyne,

And shed a tear for me ;

But, alack, for poverty and eild,

Siccan joys I can never see !

" For, though I have toil'd these seventy years,

Wasting both blood and bone,

Striving for riches as for life,

Yet riches I have none.

" For though I seized them by the tail,

With proud and joyful mind,

Yet did they take them wings and fly,

And leave me here behind ;

" They left me here to rant and rair,

Mocking my raving tongue,

Though skraighing like ane gander goose,  
That is 'reft of his young.

" Oh, woe is me ! for all my toil,  
And all my dear bought gains,  
Yet must I die a cauldrie death,  
In poverty and pains !

" Oh ! where are all my riches gone,  
Where, or to what country  
There is gold enough into this world,  
But none of it made for me.

" Yet Providence was sore misled,  
My riches to destroy,  
Else many a poor and virtuous heart  
Should have had cause of joy."

Then the poor auld man laid down his head,  
And rairit for very grief,  
And streikit out his limbs to die ;  
For he knew of no relief.

But bye there came a lovely dame,  
Upon a palfrey gray,  
And she listen'd unto the auld man's tale  
And all he had to say

Of all his griefs, and sore regret,  
For things that him befell,  
And because he could not feed the poor,  
Which thing he loved so well.

“ It is great pity,” quod the dame,  
“ That one so very kind,  
So full of charity and love,  
And of such virtuous mind,

“ Should lie and perish on a brae,  
Of poverty and eild,  
Without one single hand to prove  
His solace and his shield.”

She took the old man her behind  
Upon her palfrey gray,  
And swifter nor the southland wind  
They scour'd the velvet brae.

And the palfrey's tail behind did sail  
O'er locker and o'er lea ;  
While the tears stood in the old man's eyne,  
With swiftness and with glee ;

For the comely dame had promised him  
Of riches mighty store,  
That his kind heart might have full scope  
For feeding of the poor.

“ Now grace me save !” said the good old man ;  
“ Where bears thy bridle hand ?  
Art thou going to break the Greenock bank ?  
Or the bank of fair Scotland ?

“ My conscience hardly this may brook ;  
But on this you may depend,

Whatever is given unto me,  
Is to a righteous end."

"Keep thou thy seat," said the comely dame,  
"And conscience clear and stenne;  
There is plenty of gold in the sea's bottom  
To enrich ten thousand men.

"Ride on with me, and thou shalt see  
What treasures there do lie;  
For I can gallop the emerald wave,  
And along its channels, dry."

"If thou canst do that," said the good old man,  
"Thou shalt ride thy lane for me;  
For I can neither swim, nor dive,  
Nor walk the raging sea.

"For the salt water would blind mine eyne,  
And what should I see there?  
And buller buller down my throat;  
Which thing I could not bear."

But away and away flew the comely dame  
O'er moorland and o'er fell;  
But whether they went north or south,  
The old man could not tell.

And the palfrey's tail behind did sail,  
A comely sight to see,  
Like little wee comet of the dale  
Gaun skimming o'er the lea.

When the old man came to the salt sea's brink,  
He quaked at the ocean faem ;  
But the palfrey splash'd into the same,  
As it were its native hame.

“ Now Christ us save ! ” cried the good old man ;  
“ Hath madness seized thine head ?  
For we shall sink in the ocean wave,  
And bluther quhill we be dead.”

But the palfrey dash'd o'er the bounding wave,  
With snifter and with stenne ;  
It was firmer nor the firmest sward  
In all the Deffane glen.

But the good old man he held as Death  
Holds by a sinner's tail,  
Or as a craven clings to life,  
When death does him assail.

And the little wee palfrey shot away,  
Like dragon's fiery train,  
And up the wave, and down the wave,  
Like meteor of the main.

And its streaming tail behind did sail  
With shimmer and with sheen ;  
And whenever it struck the mane of the wave,  
The flashes of fire were seen.

“ Ochone ! ochone ! ” said the good old man,  
“ It is awesome to be here ! ”



I fear these riches for which I greine  
Shall cost me very dear.

“ For we are running such perilous race  
As mortals never ran ;  
And the devil is in that little beast,  
If ever he was in man ! ”

“ Hurrah ! hurrah ! my bonnie gray ! ”  
Cried the Maiden of the Sea ;  
“ Ha ! thou canst sweep the emerant deep  
Swifter nor bird can flee !

“ For thou wast bred in a coral bed,  
Beneath a silver sun,  
Where the broad daylight, or the moon by night,  
Could never never won ;

“ Where the buirdly whale could never sail,  
Nor the lazy walrus row ;  
And the little wee thing that gave thee suck,  
Was a thing of the caves below.

“ And thou shalt run till the last sun  
Sink o’er the westland hill ;  
And thou shalt ride the ocean tide  
Till all its waves lie still.

“ Away ! away ! my bonnie gray !  
Where billows rock the dead,  
And where the richest prize lies low,  
In all the ocean’s bed.

The palfrey scrapit with his foot,  
And snorkit fearsomelye ;  
Then lookit over his left shoulder,  
To see what he could see.

And as ever you saw a mouidiwort  
Bore into a foggy lea,  
So did this little devilish beast  
Dive down into the sea.

The good old man he gave a rair  
As loud as he could strain :  
But the waters closed aboon his head,  
And down he went amain !

But he neither blutherit with his breath,  
Nor gaspit with his ganne,  
And not one drop of salt water  
Adown his thropple ran.

But he rode as fair, and he rode as free,  
As if all swaithed and furl'd  
In MacIntosh's patent ware,—  
The marvel of this world.

At length they came to a gallant ship,  
In the channels of the sea,  
That leant her shoulder to a rock,  
With her masts full sore aglee.

And there lay many a gallant man,  
Rock'd by the moving main ;

And soundly soundly did they sleep,  
Never to wake again.

The ships might sail, and friends might wail,  
On margin of the sea,  
But news of them they would never hear  
Till the days of eternitie ;

For it was plain, as plain could be,  
From all they saw around,  
That the ship had gone down to the deep  
Without one warning sound—

Without one prayer pour'd to heaven—  
Without one parting sigh,  
Like sea-bird sailing on the wave,  
That dives, we know not why.

It was a woeful sight to see,  
In bowels of the deep,  
Lovers and lemans lying clasp'd  
In everlasting sleep.

So calmly they lay on their glittie beds,  
And in their hammocks swung,  
And the billows rock'd their drowsy forms,  
And over their cradles sung.

And there was laid a royal maid,  
As calm as if in heaven,  
Who had three gold rings on each finger,  
On her mid finger seven ;

And she had jewels in her ears,  
And bracelets brave to see ;  
The gold that was around her head  
Would have bought earldoms three.

Then the good old man pull'd out his knife,—  
It was both sharp and clear,—  
And he cut off the maiden's fingers small,  
And the jewels from ilka ear.

“ Oh, shame, oh, shame !” said the comely dame,  
“ Woe worth thy ruthless hand !  
How darest thou mangle a royal corpse,  
Once flower of many a land ?

“ And all for the sake of trinkets vain,  
‘ Mid such a store as this !”  
“ Ochone, alake !” quod the good auld man,  
“ You judge full far amiss ;

“ It is better they feed the righteous poor,  
That on their God depend,  
Than to lie slumbering in the deep  
For neither use nor end,

“ Unless to grace a partan's limb  
With costly, shining ore,  
Or deck a lobster's burly snout,—  
A beast which I abhor !”

Then the Sea Maid smiled a doubtful smile,  
And said, with lifted ee,—

"Full many a righteous man I have seen,  
But never a one like thee!

But thou shalt have thine heart's desire,  
In feeding the upright;  
And all the good shall bless the day  
That first thou saw the light."

Then she loaded him with gems and gold,  
On channel of the main;  
Yet the good old man was not content,  
But turn'd him back again.

And every handful he put in,  
He said right wistfully,  
"Och, this will ane whole fortune prove  
For one poor familye.

And he neifuit in, and he neifuit in,  
And never could refrain,  
Quhill the little wee horse he could not move,  
Nor mount the wave again;

But he snorkit with his little nose,  
Till he made the sea rocks ring,  
And waggit his tail across the wave  
With many an angry swing.

"Come away, come away, my little bonnie gray,  
Think of the good before;  
There is as much gold upon thy back  
As will feed ten thousand poor!"

Then the little wee horse he strauchlit on,  
Through darkling scenes sublime—  
O'er shoals, and stones, and dead men's bones ;  
But the wave he could not climb :

But along, along, he sped along  
The floors of the silent sea,  
With a world of waters o'er his head,  
And groves of the coral tree.

And the tide stream flow'd, and the billows row'd  
An hundred fathoms high ;  
And the light that lighted the floors below  
Seem'd from some other sky ;

For it stream'd and trembled on its way,  
Of beams and splendour shorn,  
And flow'd with an awful holiness,  
As on a journey borne.

Till at length they saw the glorious sun,  
Far in the west that glow'd,  
Flashing like fire-flaughts up and down  
With every wave that row'd.

Then the old man laugh'd a heartsome laugh,  
And a heartsome laugh laugh'd he,  
To see the sun in such a trim  
Dancing so furiouslye ;

For he thought the angels of the even  
Had taken the blessed sun,

To toss in the blue blanket of heaven,  
To make them glorious fun.

But at length the May, and her palfrey gray,  
And the good old man beside,  
Set their three heads aboon the wave,  
And came in with the flowing tide.

Then all the folks on the shores of Fife  
A terror flight began,  
And the burgess men of old Kinross  
They left their hames and ran.

For they kend the Sea Maid's glossy ee,  
Like the blue of heaven that shone ;  
And the little wee horse of the coral cave,  
That neither had blood nor bone.

And they said, when she came unto their coast,  
She never came there for good,  
But warning to give of storms and wrecks,  
And the shedding of Christian blood.

Alake for the good men of Kinross,  
For their wits were never rife !  
For now she came with a mighty store,  
For the saving of poor men's life.

When the little wee horse he found his feet  
On the firm ground and the dry,  
He shook his mane, and gave a graen,  
And threw his heels on high,

Quhill the gold play'd jingle on the shore  
That eased him of his pain ;  
Then he turn'd and kick'd it where it lay,  
In very great disdain.

And he hatt the old man right behind  
With such unsparing might,  
That he made him jump seven ells and more,  
And on his face to light.

“ Now, woe be to thee for a wicked beast  
For since ever thy life began,  
I never saw thee lift thy foot  
Against a righteous man.

“ But fare thee well, thou good old man,  
Thy promise keep in mind ;  
Let this great wealth I have given to thee  
Be a blessing to thy kind.

So as thou strive so shalt thou thrive,  
And be it understood  
That I must visit thee again,  
For evil or for good.”

Then the bonny May she rode her way  
Along the sea-wave green,  
And away and away on her palfrey gray,  
Like the ocean's comely queen.

As she fared up the Firth of Forth  
The fishes fled all before,



And a thousand cods and haddocks brave  
Ran swattering right ashore.

A hundred-and-thretty buirdly whales  
Went snoring up the tide,  
And wide on Alloa's fertile holms  
They gallop'd ashore and died.\*

But it grieveth my heart to tell to you,  
What I never have told before,  
Of that man so righteous and so good,  
So long as he was poor ;

But, whenever he got more store of gold  
Than ever his wits could tell,  
He never would give a mite for good,  
Neither for heaven nor hell.

But he brooded o'er that mighty store  
With sordid heart of sin,

\* As this is likely to be the only part of my truthful ballad of which may be disputed, I assure the reader that it is a literal fact, that, with a single tide, in the month of March, a few years ago, more than 130 whales were left ashore in the vicinity of Alloa. They were called them young ones ; but to me it appeared that they had been old ones. Their skeletons at a distance were like those of large horses. The old ones ran up as far as the mill-dam of Cambus, on the Devon, where, left by the retreating tide, and where, after a day's severe and excellent sport to a great multitude, they were both slain, and a young one, which one of the old whales used every effort to defend most fearfully when she saw it attacked. On testifying my opinion of the men of Cambus why the whales should all have betaken to dry land, I was answered by a sly fellow, that " A mermaid had driven them up the Firth, which had frightened them so much that they all out of their judgments !"

And the houseless wight, or the poor by night,  
His gate wan never within.

And the last accounts I had of him  
Are very strange to tell,—  
He was seen with the May and the palfrey gray  
Riding fiercely out through hell.

And aye she cried, “ Hurrah, hurrah !  
Make room for me and mine !  
I bring you the man of Alloa  
To his punishment condign !

“ His Maker tried him in the fire,  
To make his heart contrite ;  
But, when he gat his heart's desire,  
He proved a hypocrite.”

Then all you poor and contrite ones,  
In deep afflictions hurl'd,  
O, never grieve or vex your hearts  
For the riches of this world ;

For they bring neither health nor peace  
Unto thy spirit's frame ;  
And there is a treasure better far,  
Which minstrel dares not name.

Hast thou not heard an olden say,  
By one who could not lee ?—  
It is something of a great big beast  
Going through a needle's ee.

Then think of that, and be content ;  
For life is but a day,  
And the night of death is gathering fast  
To close upon your way.

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## JOCK JOHNSTONE THE TINKLER.

“ OH, came ye ower by the Yoke-burn Ford,  
Or down the King's Road of the cleuch ?  
Or saw ye a Knight and a Lady bright,  
Wha hae gane the gate they baith shall rue ?”

“ I saw a knight and a Lady bright,  
Ride up the cleuch at the break of day ;  
The Knight upon a coal-black steed,  
And the dame on one of the silver gray.

“ And the Lady's palfrey flew the first,  
With many a clang of silver bell :  
Swift as the raven's morning flight,  
The two went scouring ower the fell.

“ By this time they are man and wife,  
And standing in St Mary's fane ;  
And the Lady in the grass-green silk  
A maid you will never see again.”

“ But I can tell thee, saucy wight,—  
And that the runaways shall prove,—

Revenge to a Douglas is as sweet  
As maiden charms or maiden's love."

" Since thou say'st that, my Lord Douglas,  
Good faith some clinking there will be ;  
Beshrew my heart, but and my sword,  
If I winna turn and ride with thee !"

They whipp'd out ower the Shepherd cleuch,  
And down the links o' the Corsecleuch burn ;  
And aye the Douglas swore by his sword  
To win his love or ne'er return.

" First fight your rival, Lord Douglas,  
And then brag after, if you may ;  
For the Earl of Ross is as brave a lord  
As ever gave good weapon sway.

" But I for ae poor siller merk,  
Or thirteen pennies an' a bawbee,  
Will tak in hand to fight you baith,  
Or beat the winner, whiche'er it be."

The Douglas turn'd him on his steed,  
And I wat a loud laughter leuch he :—

" Of all the fools I have ever met.  
Man, I hae never met ane like thee.

" Art thou akin to lord or knight,  
Or courtly squire or warrior leal ?"

" I am a Tinkler," quo the wight,  
" But I like crown-cracking unco weel."

When they came to St Mary's kirk,  
The chaplain shook for very fear ;  
And aye he kiss'd the cross, and said,  
" What deevil has sent that Douglas here .

" He neither values book nor ban,  
But curses all without demur ;  
And cares nae mair for a holy man,  
Than I do for a worthless cur."

" Come here, thou bland and brittle priest,  
And tell to me without delay,  
Where you have hid the Lord of Ross,  
And the Lady that came at the break of day ?"

" No knight or lady, good Lord Douglas,  
Have I beheld since break of morn ;  
And I never saw the Lord of Ross,  
Since the woeful day that I was born."

Lord Douglas turn'd him round about,  
And look'd the Tinkler in the face ;  
Where he beheld a lurking smile,  
And a deevil of a dour grimace.

" How's this, how's this, thou Tinkler loun ?  
Hast thou presumed to lie to me ?"  
" Faith that I have !" the Tinkler said,  
" And a right good turn I have done to thee ;

" For the Lord of Ross, and thy own true love,  
The beauteous Harriet of Thirlestane,

*Rade* west away, ere the break of day ;  
And you'll never see that dear maid again :

“ So I thought it best to bring you here,  
On a wrang scent, of my own accord ;  
For had you met the Johnstone clan,  
They wad hae made mince-meat of a lord.”

At this the Douglas was so wroth,  
He wist not what to say or do ;  
But he strak the Tinkler o'er the croun,  
Till the blood came dreeping ower his brow.

“ Beshrew thy heart,” quo the Tinkler lad,  
“ Thou bear'st thee most ungallantlie !  
If these are the manners of a lord,  
They are manners that winna gang down wi' me.”

“ Hold up thy hand,” the Douglas cried,  
“ And keep thy distance, Tinkler loun !”  
“ That will I not,” the Tinkler said,  
“ Though I and my mare should both go down !”

“ I have armour on,” cried the Lord Douglas,  
“ Cuirass and helm, as you may see.”  
“ The deil may care !” quo the Tinkler lad ;  
“ I shall have a skelp at them and thee.”

“ You are not horsed,” quo the Lord Douglas,  
“ And no remorse this weapon brooks.”  
“ Mine's a right good yaud,” quo the Tinkler lad,  
“ And a great deal better nor she looks.”

“ So stand to thy weapons, thou haughty lo—  
What I have taken I needs must give ;  
Thou shalt never strike a tinkler again,  
For the langest day thou hast to live.”

Then to it they fell, both sharp and snell,  
Till the fire from both their weapons flew ;  
But the very first shock that they met with,  
The Douglas his rashness 'gan to rue.

For though he had on a sark of mail,  
And a cuirass on his breast wore he,  
With a good steel bonnet on his head,  
Yet the blood ran trinkling to his knee.

The Douglas sat upright and firm,  
Aye as together their horses ran ;  
But the Tinkler laid on like a very deil,—  
Siccan strokes were never laid on by man.

“ Hold up thy hand, thou Tinkler loun,”  
Cried the poor priest, with whining din ;  
“ If thou hurt the brave Lord James Douglas,  
A curse be on thee and all thy kin !”

“ I care no more for Lord James Douglas,  
Than Lord James Douglas cares for me ;  
But I want to let his proud heart know,  
That a Tinkler's a man as well as he.”

So they fought on, and they fought on,  
Till good Lord Douglas' breath was gone.

And the Tinkler bore him to the ground,  
With rush, with rattle, and with groan.

“ O hon ! O hon ! ” cried the proud Douglas,  
“ That I this day should have lived to see !  
For sure my honour I have lost,  
And a leader again I can never be !

“ But tell me of thy kith and kin,  
And where was bred thy weapon hand ?  
For thou art the wale of tinkler louns  
That ever was born in Fair Scotland.”

“ My name’s Jock Johnstone,” quo the wight,—  
“ I winna keep in my name frae thee ;  
And here, take thou thy sword again,  
And better friends we two shall be.”

But the Douglas swore a solemn oath,  
That was a debt he could never owe  
He would rather die at the back of the dike,  
Than owe his sword to a man so low.

“ But if thou wilt ride under my banner,  
And bear my livery and my name,  
My right-hand warrior thou shalt be,  
And I’ll knight thee on the field of fame.”

“ Woe worth thy wit, good Lord Douglas,  
To think I’d change my trade for thine ;  
Far better and wiser would you be,  
To live as journeyman of mine,



“ To mend a kettle or a casque,  
Or clout a goodwife's yettlin pan,—  
Upon my life, good Lord Douglas,  
You'd make a noble tinkler man !

“ I would give you drammock twice a-day,  
And sunkets on a Sunday morn ;  
And you should be a rare adept  
In steel and copper, brass and horn !

“ I'll fight you every day you rise,  
Till you can act the hero's part ;  
Therefore, I pray you, think of this,  
And lay it seriously to heart.”

The Douglas writhed beneath the lash,  
Answering with an inward curse,—  
Like salmon wriggling on a spear,  
That makes his deadly wound the worse.

But up there came two squires renown'd ;  
In search of Lord Douglas they came ;  
And when they saw their master down,  
Their spirits mounted in a flame.

And they flew upon the Tinkler wight,  
Like perfect tigers on their prey ;  
But the Tinkler heaved his trusty sword,  
And made him ready for the fray.

“ Come one to one ye coward knaves,—  
Come hand to hand, and steed to steed,

I would that ye were better men,  
For this is glorious work indeed !”

Before you could have counted twelve,  
The Tinkler’s wondrous chivalrye  
Had both the squires upon the sward,  
And their horses galloping o’er the lea.

The Tinkler tied them neck and heel,  
And mony a biting jest gave he :  
“ O fie, for shame !” said the Tinkler lad,  
“ Siccan fighters I did never see !”

He slit one of their bridal reins,—  
O what disgrace the conquer’d feels !  
And he skelpit the squires with that good tawse,  
Till the blood ran off at baith their heels.

The Douglas he was forced to laugh,  
Till down his cheek the salt tears ran :  
“ I think the deevil be come here  
In the likeness of a tinkler man !”

Then he is to Lord Douglas gone,  
And he raised him kindly by the hand,  
And he set him on his gallant steed,  
And bore him away to Henderland :

“ Be not cast down, my Lord Douglas,  
Nor writhe beneath a broken bane,  
For the leach’s art will mend the part,  
And your honour lost will spring again.

“ ’Tis true, Jock Johnstone is my name,  
I’m a right good tinkler as you see ;  
For I can crack a casque betimes,  
Or clout one, as my need may be.

“ Jock Johnstone is my name, ’tis true,—  
But noble hearts are allied to me,  
For I am the Lord of Annandale,  
And a Knight and Earl as well as thee.”

Then Douglas strain’d the hero’s hand,  
And took from it his sword again ;  
Since thou art the Lord of Annandale,  
Thou hast eased my heart of meikle pain.

“ I might have known thy noble form,  
In that disguise thou’rt pleased to wear ;  
All Scotland knows thy matchless arm,  
And England, by experience dear.

“ We have been foes as well as friends,  
And jealous of each other’s sway ;  
But little can I comprehend  
Thy motive for these pranks to-day ?”

“ Sooth, my good Lord, the truth to tell,  
’Twas I that stole your love away,  
And gave her to the Lord of Ross  
An hour before the break of day :

“ For the Lord of Ross is my brother,  
By all the laws of chivalry ;

And I brought with me a thousand men  
To guard him to my own countrie.

“ But I thought meet to stay behind,  
And try your lordship to waylay ;  
Resolved to breed some noble sport,  
By leading you so far astray.

“ Judging it better some lives to spare,—  
Which fancy takes me now and then,—  
And settle our quarrel hand to hand,  
Than each with our ten thousand men.

“ God send you soon, my Lord Douglas,  
To Border foray sound and hail !  
But never strike a tinkler again,  
If he be a Johnstone of Annandale.”



## A LAY OF THE MARTYRS.

“ OH where have you been, honny Marley Reid ?  
For mony a long night and day  
I have miss'd ye sair, at the Wanlock-head,  
And the cave o' the Louthier brae.

“ Our friends are waning fast away,  
Baith frae the cliff and the wood ;  
They are tearing them frae us ilka day ;  
For there's naething will please but blood.

“ And, O bonny Marley, I maun now  
Gie your heart muckle pain,  
For your bridegroom is a-missing to  
And 'tis fear'd that he is ta'en.

“ We have sought the caves o' the Enter  
And the dens o' the Ballybough,  
And a' the howes o' the Ganna linn ;  
And we wot not what to do.”

“ Dispel your fears, good Marjory Laing  
And hope all for the best,  
For the servants of God will find a place,  
Their weary heads to rest.

“ There are better places, that we ken o',  
And seemlier to be in,  
Than all the dens of the Ballybough,  
Or howes o' the Ganna linn.

“ But sit thee down, good Marjory Laing  
And listen a while to me,  
For I have a tale to tell to you,  
That will bring you to your knee :

‘ I went to seek my own dear James  
In the cave o' the Louthier brae,  
For I had some things, that, of a' the wor  
He best deserved to hae.

“ I had a kebbuck in my lap,  
And a fadge o' the flour sac sma,'

And a sark I had made for his buirdly back,  
As white as the new-dri'en.snow.

“ I sought him over hill and dale,  
Shouting by cave and tree ;  
But only the dell with its eiry yell,  
An answer return'd to me.

“ I sought him up, and I sought him down,  
And echoes return'd his name,  
Till the gloffs o' dread shot to my heart,  
And dirled through a' my frame.

“ I sat me down by the Enterkin,  
And saw, in a fearful line,  
The red dragoons come up the path,  
Wi' prisoners eight or nine :

“ And one of them was my dear, dear James,  
The flower of a' his kin ;  
He was wounded behind, and wounded before,  
And the blood ran frae his chin.

“ He was bound upon a weary hack,  
Lash'd both by hough and heel,  
And his hands were bound behind his back.  
Wi' the thumbikins of steel.

“ I kneel'd before that Popish band,  
In the fervour of inward strife,  
And I raised to Heaven my trembling hand,  
And begg'd my husband's life.

“ But all the troop laugh’d me to scorn,  
Making my grief their game ;  
And the Captain said some words to me,  
Which I cannot tell you for shame.

“ And then he cursed our Whigish race,  
With a proud and a scornful brow,  
And bade me look at my husband’s face,  
And say how I liked him now.

‘ Oh, I like him weel, thou proud Captain,  
Though the blood runs to his knee,  
And all the better for the grievous wrongs,  
He has suffer’d this day frae thee.

‘ But can you feel within your heart  
That comely youth to slay ? .  
For the hope you have in Heaven, Captain,  
Let him gang wi’ me away !’

“ Then the Captain swore a fearfu’ oath,  
With loathsome jest and mock,  
That he thought no more of a Whigamore’s life,  
Than the life of a noisome brock.

“ Then my poor James to the Captain call’d,  
And he begg’d baith hard and sair,  
To have one kiss of his bonny bride,  
Ere we parted for evermair.

‘ I’ll do that for you,’ said the proud Captain,  
‘ And save you the toil to-day,

And, moreover, I'll take her little store,  
To support you by the way.'

"He took my bountith from my lap,  
And I saw, with sorrow dumb,  
That he parted it all among his men,  
And gave not my love one crumb.

'Now, fare you well, my very bonny bride,'  
Cried the Captain with disdain;  
'When I come back to the banks of Nith,  
I shall kiss you sweetly then.

'Your heartiest thanks must sure be given,  
For what I have done to-day,—  
I am taking him straight on the road to Heaven;  
And short will be the way!'

"My love he gave me a parting look,  
And bless'd me ferventlye,  
And the tears they mix'd wi' his purple blood,  
And ran down to his knee."

"What's this I hear, bonny Marley Reid?  
How could these woes betide?  
For blither you could not look this day,  
Were your husband by your side.

"One of two things alone is left,  
And dreadful the one to me  
For either your fair wits are reft,  
Or else your husband's free."



“ Allay your fears, good Marjory Laing,  
And hear me out the rest ;  
You little ken what a bride will do,  
For the youth she likes the best !

“ I hied me home to my father's ha',  
And through a' my friends I ran,  
And I gather'd me up a purse o' gowd,  
To redeem my young goodman :

“ For I kenn'd the Papish lowns would weel  
My fair intent approve ;  
For they'll do far mair for the good red gowd,  
Than they'll do for Heaven above.

‘ And away I ran to Edinburgh town,  
Of my shining treasure vain,  
To buy my James from the prison strong,  
Or there with him remain.

“ I sought through a' the city jails,  
I sought baith lang and sair ;  
But the guardsmen turn'd me frae their doors,  
And swore that he was not there.

“ I went away to the Popish Duke,  
Who was my love's judge to be,  
And I proffer'd him a' my yellow store,  
If he'd grant his life to me.

‘ He counted the red gowd slowly o'er.  
By twenties and by tens,

And said I had taken the only means  
To attain my hopeful ends.

‘And now,’ said he, ‘your husband’s safe;  
You may take this pledge of me:  
And I’ll tell you, fair one, where you’ll go  
To gain this certaintye,—

‘Gang west the street and down the Bow,  
And through the market place,  
And there you will meet with a gentleman,  
Of a tall and courteous grace;

‘He is clad in a livery of the green,  
With a plume aboon his bree,  
And arm’d with a halbert, glittering sheen:  
Your love he will let you see.’

“O Marjory, never flew blithsome bird,  
So light out through the sky,  
As I flew up that stately street,  
Weeping for very joy.

“Oh never flew lamb out o’er the lea,  
When the sun gangs o’er the hill,  
Wi’ lighter, blither steps than me,  
Or skipp’d wi’ sic good will!

“And aye I bless’d the precious ore,  
My husband’s life that wan;  
And I even bless’d the Popish Duke,  
For a kind, good-hearted man.

“ The officer I soon found out,—  
For he could not be mistook ;  
But in all my life I never beheld  
Sic a grim and a grousome look.

“ I ask’d him for my dear, dear James,  
With throbs of wild delight,  
And begg’d him, in his master’s name,  
To take me to his sight.

“ He ask’d me for his true address,  
With a voice at which I shook ;  
For I saw that he was a Popish knave,  
By the terror of his look.

‘ I named the name with a buoyant voice,  
That trembled with ecstasie ;  
But the savage bray’d a hideous laugh,  
Then turn’d and grinn’d at me.

“ He pointed up to the city wall:  
One look benumb’d my soul ;  
For there I saw my husband’s head  
Fix’d high upon a pole !

“ His yellow hair waved in the wind,  
And far behind did flee,  
And his right hand hang beside his cheek,—  
A waesome sight to see.

“ His chin hang down on open space,  
Yet comely was his brow,

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And his eyne were open to the breeze,—  
There was nane to close them now !

‘ What think you of your true love now ?  
The hideous porter said ;  
‘ Is not that a comely sight to see,  
And sweet to a Whigish maid ?’

‘ Oh, hand your tongue, ye Popish slave,  
For I downa answer you ;  
He was dear, dear to my heart before,  
But never sae dear as now !

‘ I see a sight you cannot see,  
Which man cannot efface ;  
I see a ray of heavenly love  
Beaming on that dear face.

‘ And weel I ken yon bonny brent brow,  
Will smile in the walks on high,  
And yon yellow hair, all blood-stain’d now,  
Maun wave aboon the sky.’

“ But can you trow me, Marjory dear ?  
In the might of heavenly grace,  
There was never a sigh burst frae my heart,  
Nor a tear ran o’er my face.

“ But I bless’d my God, who had thus seen meet  
To take him from my side,  
To call him home to the courts above,  
And leave me a virgin bride.”

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" Alack, alack, bonny Marley Reid,  
That sic days we hae lived to see!  
For siccan a cruel and waefu' tale  
Was never yet heard by me.

" And all this time, I have, trembling, ween'd  
That your dear wits were gone;  
For there is a joy in your countenance,  
Which I never saw beam thereon.

Then let us kneel with humble hearts,  
To the God whom we revere,  
Who never yet laid that burden on,  
Which he gave not strength to bear."

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BOTHWELL BRIGG.

" Oh what is become o' your leal goodman,  
That now you are a' your lane?  
If he has join'd wi' the rebel gang,  
You will never see him again."

" O say nae ' the rebel gang,' Ladye;  
It's a term nae heart can thole,  
For them wha rebel against their God,  
It is justice to control.

" When rank oppression rends the heart,  
And rules wi' stroke o' death,

Wha wadna spend their dear heart's blood  
For the tenets o' their faith?

"Then say nae 'the rebel gang,' Ladye,  
For it gies me muckle pain;  
My John went away with Earlston,  
And I'll never see either again."

"O wae is my heart for thee, Janet,  
O sair is my heart for thee!  
These Covenant men were ill advised;  
They are fools, you may credit me.

"Where 's a' their boastfu' preaching now,  
Against their King and law,  
When mony a head in death lies low,  
And mony mae maun fa'?"

"Ay, but death lasts no for aye, Ladye,  
For the grave maun yield its prey;  
And when we meet on the verge of heaven,  
We'll see wha are fools that day:

"We'll see wha looks in their Saviour's face  
With holiest joy and pride,  
Whether they who shed his servants' blood,  
Or those that for him died.

"I wadna be the highest dame  
That ever this country knew,  
And take my chance to share the doom  
Of that persecuting crew.

“ Then ca’ us na ‘ rebel gang,’ Ladye,  
Nor take us fools to be,  
For there isna ane of a’ that gang,  
Wad change his state wi’ thee.”

“ Oh weel may you be, my poor Janet,  
May blessings on you combine !  
The better you are in either state,  
The less shall I repine ;

“ But wi’ your fightings and your faith,  
Your ravings and your rage,  
There you have lost a leal helpmate,  
In the blossom of his age.

“ And what’s to come o’ ye, my poor Janet,  
Wi’ these twa babies sweet ?  
Ye hae naebody now to work for them,  
Or bring you a meal o’ meat ;

“ It is that which makes my heart sae wae  
And gars me, while scarce aware,  
Whiles say the things I wadna say,  
Of them that can err nae mair.”

Poor Janet kiss’d her youngest babe,  
And the tears fell on his cheek,  
And they fell upon his swaddling bands,  
For her heart was like to break.

“ Oh little do I ken, my dear, dear babes.  
What misery’s to be mine !

But for the cause we hae espoused,  
I will yield my life and thine.

“ Oh had I a friend, as I hae nane,—  
For nane dare own me now,—  
That I might send to Bothwell brigg,  
If the killers wad but allow,

“ To lift the corpse of my brave John :  
I ken where they will him find,—  
He wad meet his God's foes face to face,  
And he'll hae nae wound behind.”

“ But I went to Bothwell brigg, Janet, —  
There was nane durst hinder me,—  
For I wantit to hear a' I could hear,  
And to see what I could see ;

“ And there I found your brave husband,  
As viewing the dead my lane ;  
He was lying in the very foremost rank,  
In the midst of a heap o' slain.”

Then Janet held up her hands to heaven,  
And she grat, and she tore her hair,  
“ O sweet Ladye, O dear Ladye,  
Dinna tell me ony mair !

“ There is a hope will linger within,  
When earthly hope is vain,  
But, when ane kens the very worst,  
It turns the heart to stane !”



‘ Oh wae is my heart. John Carr,’ said I,  
‘ That I this sight should see !’  
But when I said these waefu’ words,  
He lifted his eyne to me.

‘ O art thou there my kind Ladye,  
The best o’ this warld’s breed,  
And are you ganging your leifou lane,  
Amang the hapless dead ?’

‘ I hae servants within my ca,’ John Carr,  
And a chariot in the dell,  
And if there is ony hope o’ life,  
I will carry you hame mysell.’

‘ O Lady, there is nae hope o’ life ;  
And what were life to me ?  
Wad ye save me frae the death of a man,  
To hang on a gallows tree ?

‘ I hae nae hame to fly to now,  
Nae country, and nae kin ;  
There is not a door in Fair Scotland  
Durst open to let me in.

‘ But I hae a loving wife at hame,  
And twa babies, dear to me ;  
They hae naebody now that dares favour them,  
And of hunger they a’ maun dee.

‘ Oh for the sake of thy Saviour dear,  
Whose mercy thou hopest to share

Dear Lady, take the sackless things  
A weè beneath thy care !

‘ A lang farewell, my kind Ladye !  
O’er weel I ken thy worth.  
Gae send me a drink o’ the water o’ Clyde,  
For my last drink on earth.’

“ O dinna tell ony mair, Ladye,  
For my heart is cauld as clay ;  
There is a spear that pierces here,  
Frae every word ye say.”

“ He wasna fear’d to dee, Janet,—  
For he gloried in his death,  
And wish’d to be laid with those who had bled  
For the same endearing faith.

“ There were three wounds in his boardly breast,  
And his limb was broke in twain,  
And the sweat ran down wi’ his red heart’s blood,  
Wrung out by the deadly pain.

“ I row’d my apron round his head,  
For fear my men should tell,  
And I hid him in my Lord’s castle,  
And I nursed him there mysell.

“ And the best leeches in a’ the land  
Have tended him as he lay,  
And he never has lack’d my helping hand,  
By night nor yet by day.

“ I durstna tell you before, Janet,  
For I fear'd his life was gane,  
But now he's sae weel, ye may visit him,  
And ye'se meet by yoursells alane.”

Then Janet she fell at her Lady's feet,  
And she claspit them ferventlye,  
And she steepit them a' wi' the tears o' joy,  
Till the good Lady wept to see.

“ Oh ye are an angel sent frae heaven,  
To lighten calamitye !  
For, in distress, a friend or foe  
Is a' the same to thee.

“ If good deeds count in heaven, Ladye,  
Eternal bliss to share,  
Ye hae done a deed will save your soul,  
Though ye should never do mair.”

“ Get up, get up, my kind Janet,  
But never trow tongue or pen,  
That a' the warld are lost to good,  
Except the Covenant men.”

Wha wadna hae shared that Lady's joy  
When watching the wounded hind,  
Rather than those of the feast and the dance,  
Which her kind heart resign'd ?

Wha wadna rather share that Lady's fate,  
When the stars shall melt away,

Than that of the sternest anchorite,  
That can naething but graen and pray ?

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## THE CARLE OF INVERTIME.

Who has not heard of a Carle uncouth,  
The terror of age, and the scorn of youth ;  
Well known in this and every clime  
As the grim Gudeman of Invertime ?—  
A stern old porter who carries the key  
That opens the gate to a strange countrie !

The Carle's old heart with joy is dancing,  
When, down the valley, he sees advancing  
The lovely, the brave, the good, or the great,  
To pay the sad toll of his darksome gate.  
'Tis said nought gives such joy to him  
As the freezing blood and the stiffening limb :  
It has never been mine his house to scan,  
So I scarce trow this of our grim Gudeman.

Wise men believe, yet I scarce know why,  
That he grimly smiles as he shoves them by ;  
And cares not whether to isles of bliss  
They go, or to sorrow's dark wilderness ;  
Or if, driven afar, their fate should be  
To toss on the waves of a shoreless sea ;  
Or sunk in lakes of surging flame,  
Burning and boiling, and ever the same :

Where groups of mortals toss amain  
On the sultry billow, and down again.  
Time, from the sky shall blot out the sun,  
Yet ne'er with this den of dool have done.  
It makes me shake, and it makes me shiver ;  
His presence forbid it should last for ever !

Sad, wise, or witty—all find, to their cost,  
That the grim old Carle is still at his post :  
He sits, and he sees, with joy elate,  
In myriads, men pour in at his gate.  
Some come in gladness and joy to close  
Account with Time, and sink to repose :  
Some come in sorrow ; they think, in sooth,  
It hard to be summon'd in strength and youth.  
There lady and losel,—peasant and lord,  
Men of the pen, the sermon, the sword ;  
The counsellor, leech, and the monarch sublime  
All come to the Carle of Invertime.

Amongst the others, one morning came  
An aged and a venerable Dame,  
Stooping, and palsied, and pain'd to boot,  
Moaning, and shaking from head to foot,  
Slow in her pace, yet steady of mind,  
She turn'd not once, nor look'd behind ;  
Nor dreading nor daring her future fate,  
She totter'd along to the dismal gate.

A gleam of light glanced in the eye  
Of the grim Gudeman as the dame drew nigh ;  
Little cared he for an old gray wife ;  
Who hung like a link 'tween death and life ;

But, by the side of the eldern dame,  
A Form so pure and so lovely came,  
That the Carle's cold, veinless heart heaved high,  
A tear like an ice-drop came to his eye ;  
He vow'd through his gate she should not win :  
She seem'd no child of sorrow and sin.  
As thus he stood in his porch to mark,  
His looks now light and his looks now dark,  
He marvell'd to hear so lovely a thing  
Lift up her voice and gently sing  
A strain, too holy, too sweet, and wild  
And charming, to come from an earthborn child ;  
It glow'd with love, and fervour, and faith,  
And seem'd to triumph o'er time and death :

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" Great Fountain of Light,  
And Spirit of Might,  
To work thy will has been my delight ;  
And here at my knee,  
From guiltiness free,  
I bring a mild meek spirit to thee.

" When first I went to guide her to truth,  
She was in the opening blossom of youth ;  
When scarce on her leaf, so spotless and new,  
Ripe reason had come with her dropping dew.  
Where life's pure river is but a rill,  
She grew, and scarce knew good from ill ;  
But my sisters three  
Came soon to me,  
Pure Love, true Faith, sweet Charity.

Through doubts and fears,  
These eighty years,  
We have show'd her the way to the heavenly spheres  
Our first stage down life's infant stream  
Was all a maze and a childish dream ;  
And nought was there of sin or sense,  
But dawning beauty and innocence ;  
A fairy dance of sweet delight,  
Through flowers, and bowers, and visions bright.  
Sometimes a hymn, and sometimes a prayer,  
Was pour'd to Thee with a fervent air ;  
'Twas sung or said, and straight was seen  
The sweet child gamboling on the green ;  
While the pure hymn, late pour'd to Thee,  
Was chanted light as a song of glee.

“ As we went down the vale of life,  
With flowers the road became less rife.  
By pitfall, precipice and pool,  
Our way was shaped, by line and rule.  
'Mid hours of joy and days of mirth,  
And hopes and fears, high thoughts had birth,  
And natural yearnings of the mind,  
Of something onward, undefined—  
Which scarce the trembling soul durst scan—  
Of God's most wondrous love to man,  
And some far forward state of bliss,  
Of beauty, and of holiness ;  
But to all woes and evils blinded,  
Or thoughts of death, unless reminded.  
Oh ! happy age, remember'd well,  
Where neither sin nor shame can dwell !

Even then Thine eye,  
From heaven high,  
Saw that her monitor was nigh ;  
At morn and even,  
To turn to Heaven  
The grateful eye, for blessings given.  
And from the first prevailing tide  
Of sin, and vanity, and pride,  
To save her, and to lead her on  
To glories unreveal'd, unknown.

“ Onward we came ; life's streamlet then  
Enter'd a green and odorous glen ;  
Increased, and through fair flowerets rolling,  
And shady bowers, seem'd past controlling ;  
Flowing, 'mid roses, fast and free—  
This was a trying stage for me !  
The maiden's youthful heart began  
To dance through scenes Elysian ;  
To breathe in Love's ambrosial dew,  
Moved by sensations sweet and new :  
For, without look or word of blame,  
Her radiant blushes went and came ;  
Her eye, of heaven's own azure blue,  
In glance and lustre brighter grew :  
Showing fond feelings, all akin  
To that pure soul which lived within.

“ With heart so soft and soul sincere,  
Love found his way by eye and ear  
Then how I labour'd, day and night,  
To watch her ways, and guide her right !



I brought cool airs from Paradise  
To purify her melting sighs ;  
I steep'd my veil in heaven's own spring,  
And o'er her watch'd on silent wing ;  
And, when she laid her down to rest,  
I spread the veil o'er her virgin breast :  
All earthly passions far did flee,  
And heart and soul she turn'd to Thee.

“ Throughout her life  
Of wedded wife,  
I wean'd her soul from passion's strife ;  
But oh ! what fears  
And frequent tears  
For the peril of childhood's tender years !  
And when her firstborn's feeble moan  
Was hush'd by the soul's departing groan ;  
In that hour of maternal grief,  
I pointed her way to the sole relief.  
Another sweet babe there came and went—  
Her gushing eyes she fix'd, and bent  
Upon that mansion bright and sweet,  
Where sever'd and kindred spirits meet.

“ She has wept for the living, and wept for the d  
Laid low in the grave her husband's head ;  
She has toil'd for bread with the hands of age,  
And, through her useful pilgrimage,  
Has seen her race sink, one by one—  
All, all she loved—yet, left and lone,  
With cheer unchanged, with heart unshook,  
On God she fix'd her steadfast look.

I now with the eye of purest faith,  
 sees, beyond the vale of death,  
 lay that has no cloud or shower—  
 has less dread of her parting hour,  
 an ever had babe of its mother's breast  
 when it lays its innocent head to rest.

" Oh ! Maker of Earth, dread Ruler above,  
 receive her spirit, her faith approve !  
 tenderer mother, a nobler wife,  
 'er waged, 'gainst earth and its sorrows, strife ;  
 never can bid a form arise  
 with purer heart than hers to the skies."



The Carle was moved with holy fear,  
 at lovely seraph's sweet song to hear ;  
 turn'd away and he cover'd his head,  
 for over him fell a visible dread,  
 while she gave her form to the breeze away  
 that came from the vales of immortal day ;  
 and sung her hymns far over the same,  
 and heavenly Hope was the Seraph's name :  
 the guide to a land of rest and bliss,  
 a sinless world—how unlike this !

To earth's blest pilgrim, old and gray,  
 the gate dissolved like a cloud away ;  
 and the grim old Carle he veil'd his face,  
 as she pass'd him by with a holy pace ;  
 with a touch of his hand and a whisper mild,  
 soothed her heart as one stills a child.

The song of faith she faintly sung,  
And God's dread name was last on her tongue.

Now from the pall, bright and sublime,  
That hangs o'er the uttermost skirts of time,  
Came righteous Souls, and Shapes more bright,  
Clothed in glory and walking in light ;  
Majestic Beings of earthly frame,  
And of heavenly radiance, over the same :  
To welcome the Pilgrim of this gross clime,  
They had come from Eternity back to Time—  
And they sung, while they wafted her on the road,  
“ Come, righteous creature, and dwell with God !”

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## RINGAN AND MAY.

I HEARD a laverock singing with glee,  
And oh but the bird sang cheerilye ;  
Then I askit at my true love Ringan,  
If he kend what the bonny bird was singing ?

Now, my love Ringan is blithe and young,  
But he has a fair and flattering tongue ;  
And oh, I'm fear'd I like ower weel  
His tales of love, though kind and leal !  
So I said to him, in scornful ways,  
“ You ken nae word that wee burd says !”

Then my love he turn'd about to me,  
And there was a smile in his pawky ee ;

And he says, " My May, my dawtied dow,  
I ken that strain far better nor you ;  
For that little fairy that lilts so loud,  
And hangs on the fringe of the sunny cloud,  
Is telling the tale, in chants and chimes,  
I have told to thee a thousand times.  
I will let thee hear how our strains accord,  
And the laverock's sweet sang, word for word :

*Interpretation of the Lark's Song.*

' Oh, my love is bonny and mild to see,  
As sweetly she sits on her dewy lea,  
And turns up her cheek and clear gray eye,  
To list what's saying within the sky !  
For she thinks my morning hyinn so sweet,  
Wi' the streamers of Heaven aneath my feet,  
Where the proud goshawk could never won,  
Between the gray cloud and the sun,—  
And she thinks her love a thing of the skies,  
Sent down from the holy Paradise,  
To sing to the world, at morn and even,  
The sweet love songs in the bowers of Heaven.

' O my love is bonny, and young, and chaste,  
As sweetly she sits in her mossy nest !  
And she deems the birds on bush and tree,  
As nothing but dust and droul to me.  
Though the robin warble his waesome chirl,  
And the merle gar all the greenwood dirl,  
And the storm-cock touts on his towering plne,  
She trows their song's a mock to mine ;

The linty's cheip a ditty tame,  
And the shilfa's everlasting rham; ;  
The plover's whew a solo drear,  
And the whilly-whaup's ane shame to hear ;  
And, whenever a lover comes in view,  
She cowers beneath her screen of dew.

‘ O my love is bonny ! her virgin breast  
Is sweeter to me nor the dawning east ;  
And well do I like, at the gloaming still,  
To dreep from the lift or the lowering hill,  
And press her nest as white as milk,  
And her breast as soft as the downy silk. ’ ”

Now when my love Ringan had warbled away  
To this base part of the laverock's lay,  
My heart was like to burst in twain,  
And the tears flow'd from mine eyne like rain ;  
At length he said, with a sigh full lang,  
“ What ails my love at the laverock's sang ? ”

Says I, “ He's ane base and wicked bird,  
As ever rose from the dewy yird ;  
It's a shame to mount on his morning wing,  
At the yetts of heaven sic sangs to sing ;  
And all to win, with his amorous din,  
A sweet little virgin bird to sin,  
And wreck, with flattery and song combined,  
His dear little maiden's peace of mind !  
Oh, were I her, I would let him see,  
His songs should all be lost on me ! ”

Then my love took me in his arms,  
And 'gan to laud my leifou charms ;  
But I would not so much as let him speak  
Nor stroke my chin, nor kiss my cheek :  
For I fear'd my heart was going wrang,  
It was so moved at the laverock's sang.

Yet still I lay with an upcast ee,  
And still he was singing sae bonnilye,  
That, though with my mind I had great strife,  
I could not forbear it for my life,  
But, as he hung on the heaven's brow,  
I said, I ken not why, nor how,  
“ What's that little deevil saying now ?”

Then my love Ringan, he was so glad,  
He leugh till his folly pat me mad ;  
And he said, “ My love, I will tell you true,  
He seems to sing that strain to you ;  
For it says, ‘ I will range the yird and air  
To feed my love with the finest fare ;  
And when she looks from her bed to me,  
With the yearning love of a mother's ee,  
Oh, then I will come, and draw her nearer,  
And watch her closer, and love her dearer,  
And we never shall part till our dying day,  
But love and love on for ever and aye !”

Then my heart it bléd with a thrilling pleasure  
When it learn'd the laverock's closing measure,  
And it rose, and rose, and would not rest;  
And would hardly bide within my breast.

Then up I rose, and away I sprung,  
 And said to my love, with scornful tongue,  
 That it was ane big and burning shame ;  
 That he and the lark were both to blame ;  
 For there were some lays so soft and bland  
 That breast of maiden could not stand ;  
 And, if he lay in the wood his lane,  
 Quhill I came back to list the strain  
 Of an amorous bird amang the broom,  
 Then he might lie quhill the day of doom !

But for all the sturt and strife I made ;  
 For all I did, and all I said,  
 Alas ! I fear it will be lang  
 Or I forget that wee burd's sang !  
 And langer still or I can flee  
 The lad that told that sang to me !

## A BARD'S ADDRESS

### TO HIS YOUNGEST DAUGHTER.

Come to my arms, my dear wee pet !  
 My gleesome, gentle Harriet !  
 The sweetest babe art thou to me  
 That ever sat on parent's knee ;  
 Thy every feature is so cheering,  
 And every motion so endearing.  
 Thou hast that eye was mine erewhile,  
 Thy mother's blithe and grateful smile,

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And such a playful, merry mien,  
That Care flies off whene'er thou'rt seen.

And, if aright I read thy mind,  
The child of nature thou'rt design'd ;  
For, even while yet upon the breast,  
Thou mimick'st child, and bird, and beast ;  
Canst cry like Maggy o'er her book,  
And crow like cock, and caw like rook,  
Boo like a bull, or blare like ram,  
And bark like dog, and bleat like lamb :  
And when afield, in sunshine weather.  
Thou minglest all these sounds together,—  
Then who can say, thou happy creature !  
Thou'rt not the very child of nature ?

Child of my age and dearest love !  
As precious gift from God above,  
I take thy pure and gentle frame,  
And tiny mind of mounting flame ;  
And hope that through life's chequer'd glade,—  
That weary path that all must tread,—  
Some credit from thy name will flow  
To the old bard who loved thee so :  
At least thou shalt not want thy meed,—  
His blessing on thy beauteous head,  
And prayers to Him whose sacred breath  
Lighten'd the shades of life and death—  
Who said with sweet benignity,  
“ Let little children come to me.”

And now, sweet child, one boon I crave,—  
And pout not, for that boon I'll have,—



One kiss I ask for grandam's sake,  
Who never saw thy tiny make;  
And one for her who left us late,  
Laid low, but not forgotten yet;  
And thy sweet mother, too, the nearest  
To thee and me, the kindest, dearest,—  
Thou sacred, blest memorial,  
When I kiss thee, I kiss them all!

'Tis very strange, my little dove!  
That all I ever loved, or love,  
In wondrous visions still I trace,  
While gazing on thy guiltless face,  
Thy very name brings to my mind  
One, whose high birth and soul refined  
Withheld her not from naming me,  
Even in life's last extremitye.  
Sweet babe! thou art memorial dear  
Of all I honour and revere!

Come, look not sad: though sorrow now  
Broods on thy father's thoughtful brow,  
And on the reverie he would dwell—  
Thy prattle soon will that expel.  
—How darest thou frown, thou freakish fay!  
And turn thy chubby face away,  
And pout, as if thou took'st amiss  
Thy partial parent's offer'd kiss?  
Full well I know thy deep design;  
'Tis to turn back thy face to mine,  
With triple burst of joyous glee,  
And fifty strains at mimicrye!

Crow on, sweet child ! thy wild delight  
 [s moved by visions heavenly bright :  
 What wealth from nature may'st thou gain,  
 With promptings high to heart and brain !  
 But hope is all—though yet unproved,  
 Thou art a shepherd's best beloved :  
 And now above thy brow so fair,  
 And flowing films of flaxen hair,  
 I lay my hand once more, and frame  
 A blessing in the holy name  
 Of that supreme Divinity  
 Who breathed a living soul in thee..



## THE SPIRIT OF THE GLEN.

" O DEAREST Marjory, stay at home,  
 For dark's the gate you have to go ;  
 And there's a maike adown the glen,  
 Hath frighten'd me and many moe.

" His legs are like two pillars tall,  
 And still and stalwart is his stride ;  
 His face is rounder nor the moon,  
 And, och, his mouth is awesome wide '

" I saw him stand, the other night,  
 Yclothed in his grizly shroud ;  
 With one foot on a shadow placed,  
 The other on a misty cloud.

“ As far asunder were his limbs,  
On the first storey of the air,  
A ship could have sail'd through between,  
With all her colours flying fair.

“ He nodded his head against the heaven,  
As if in reverend mockery ;  
Then fauldit his arms upon his breast,  
And aye he shook his beard at me.

“ And he pointed to my Marjory's cot,  
And by his motion seem'd to say,  
' In yon sweet home go seek thy lot,  
For there thine earthly lot I lay.'

“ My very heart it quaked for dread,  
And turn'd as cold as beryl stone,  
And the moudies cheipit below the swaird,  
For fear their little souls were gone.

“ The cushat and the corbie craw  
Fled to the highest mountain height ;  
And the little birdies tried the same,  
But fell down on the earth with fright.

“ But there was ane shameful heronshew,  
Was sitting by the plashy shore,  
With meagre eyne watching powheads,  
And other fishes, less or more ;

“ But when she saw that grizly sight  
Stand on the billow of the wind ;

Grace, as she flapper'd and she flew,  
And left a streamoury track behind !

“ And aye she rair'd as she were wud,  
For utter terror and dismay ;  
And left a skelloch on the clud,—  
I took it for the milky way.

“ Had I not seen that hideous sight,  
What I had done I could not say ;  
But at that heron's horrid fright,  
I'll laugh until my dying day.

“ Then, dearest Marjory, stay at home,  
And rather court a blink with me ;  
For, gin you see that awesome sight,  
Yourself again you will never be.”

“ But I have made a tryst this night,  
I may not break, if take my life ;  
So I will run my risk and go :  
With maiden, spirits have no strife.

“ Have you not heard, Sir Dominie,  
That face of virgin bears a charm,  
And neither ghaist, nor man, nor beast,  
Have any power to do her harm ?”

“ Yes, there is one, sweet Majorye,  
Will stand thy friend in darksome even ;  
For virgin beauty is on earth  
The brightest type we have of heaven.

“ The colly cowers upon the swaird,  
To kiss her foot with kindly eye ;  
The maskis will not move his tongue,  
But wag his tail, if she pass by ; ”

“ The adder hath not power to stang ;  
The slow-worm’s harmless as an eel ;  
The burly toad, the ask, and snake,  
Cannot so much as wound her heel.

“ The angels love to see her good,  
And watch her ways in bower and hall ;  
The devils pay her some respect,  
And God loves her,—that is best of all.”

“ Then, sooth, I’ll take my chance, and wend  
To keep my tryst, whate’er may be ;  
Why should a virtuous maiden dread  
The tale of a crazy Dominie ?”

“ Ochon, ochon, dear Marjorye,  
But of your virtue you are vain !  
Yet you are in a wondrous haste,  
In running into toil and pain.

“ For maiden’s virtue, at the best,  
(May He that made her kind, forgive her !)  
Is like the blue-bell of the waste,  
Sweet, sweet a while, and gone for ever !

“ It is like what maiden much admires,—  
A bruckle set of china store ;

But one false stumble, start, or step,  
And down it falls for evermore !

“ It is like the florid Eden rose,  
That perisheth without recalling ;  
And aye the lovelier that it grows,  
It wears the nearer to the falling.

“ It is like the flaunting morning sky,  
That spreads its blushes far before ;  
But plash there comes a storm of rain,  
And all its glory then is o'er.

“ Then be not proud, sweet Marjorye,  
Of that which hath no sure abode :  
Man little knows what lurks within ;  
The heart is only known to God.”

But Marjory smiled a willsome smile,  
And drew her frock up to her knee ;  
And lightly down the glen she flew,  
Though the tear stood in the Dominie's ee

She had not gone a mile but ane,  
Quhill up there starts a droichel man,  
And he lookit ruefully in her face,  
And says, “ Fair maid, where be you gaun ?”

“ I am gaun to meet mine own true love,  
So, Maister Brownie, say your rede,  
I know you have not power to hurt  
One single hair of virgin's head.”

The Brownie gave a gousty laugh,  
And said, "What wisdom you do lack !  
For, if you reach your own true love,  
I may have power when you come back !'

Then next she met an eldrin dame,  
A weirdly witch I wot was she ;  
For though she wore a human face,  
It was a grousome sight to see ;

" Stay, pretty maid, what is your haste ?  
Come, speak with me before you go ;  
For I have news to tell to you,  
Will make your very heart to glow :

" You claim that virgins have a charm,  
That holds the universe at bay ;  
Alas ! poor fool, to snare and harm,  
There is none so liable as they.

" It is love that lifts up woman's soul,  
And gives her eyes a heavenly sway ;  
Then, would you be a blessed thing,  
Indulge in love without delay.

" You go to meet your own true love,  
I know it well as well can be ;  
But, or you pass a bowshot on,  
You will meet ane thrice as good as he.

" And he will press your lily hand,  
And he will kiss your cheek and chin,

And you must go to bower with him,  
For he is the youth your love must win.

“ And you must do what he desires,  
And great good fortune you shall find ;  
But when you reach your own true love,  
Keep close your secret in your mind.”

Away went Marjory, and away  
With lighter step and blither smile ;  
That night to meet her own true love,  
She would have gane a thousand mile.

She had not pass'd a bowshot on  
Until a youth, in manly trim,  
Came up and press'd the comely May  
To turn into a bower with him.

He promised her a gown of silk,  
A mantle of the cramosye,  
And chain of gold about her neck,  
For one hour of her companye.

He took her lily hand in his,  
And kiss'd it with such fervencye,  
That the poor May began to blush,  
And durst not lift her modest ee.

Her little heart began to beat,  
And flutter most disquietlye,  
She lookit east, she lookit west,  
And all to see what she could see.



She lookit up to Heaven aboon,  
Though scarcely knowing how or why  
She heaved a sigh—the day was won,  
And bright resolve beam'd in her eye.

The first stern that she look'd upon,  
A tear stood on its brow for shame ;  
It drappit on the floor of Heaven,  
And aye its blushes went and came.

Then Marjory, in a moment thought,  
That blessed angels might her see ;  
And often said within her heart,  
“ Do God's own planets blush for me

“ That they shall never do again—  
Leal virtue still shall be my guide.—  
Thou stranger youth, pass on thy way,  
With thee I will not turn aside.

“ The Angel of the Glen is wroth,  
And where shall maiden find remede ?  
See what a hideous canopy  
He is spreading high above our head !

“ Take thou no dread, sweet Marjorye ;  
It is love's own curtain spread on high  
A timeous veil for maiden's blush,  
Yon little crumb-cloth of the sky.

“ All the good angels take delight  
Sweet woman's happiness to see ;

And where could thine be so complete  
As in the bower this night with me ?

Poor Marjory durst no answer make,  
But stood as meek as captive dove ;  
Her trust fix'd on her Maker kind,—  
Her eyes upon the Heaven above.

That wicked wight (for sure no youth,  
But Demon of the Glen was he)  
Had no more power, but sped away,  
And left the maiden on her knee.

Then, all you virgins sweet and young,  
When the first whisperings of sin  
Begin to hanker on your minds,  
Or steal into the soul within,

Keep aye the eyes on Heaven aboon,  
Both of your body and your mind ;  
For in the strength of God alone,  
A woman's weakness strength shall find.

And when you go to bower or dell,  
And know no human eye can see,  
Think of an eye that never sleeps,  
And angels weeping over thee.

For man is but a selfish maik,  
And little reck's of maiden's woe,  
And all his pride is to advise  
The gate she's far ower apt to go.

Away went bonny Marjorye,  
With all her blossoms in the blight ;  
She had not gone a bowshot on,  
Before she saw an awsome sight :

It was ane maik of monstrous might,  
The terror of the sons of men ;  
That by Sir Dominie was hight,  
The Giant Spirit of the Glen.

His make was like a moonshine cloud  
That fill'd the glen with human form ;  
With his gray locks he brush'd the Heaven,  
And shook them far aboon the storm ;

And gurly, gurly was his look,  
From eyne that seem'd two borels blue ;  
And shaggy was his silver beard  
That down the air in streamers flew.

Oh, but that maid was hard bested,  
And mazed and modderit in dismay !  
For both the guests of heaven and hell  
Seem'd her fond passage to belay.

When the Great Spirit saw her dread,  
And that she wist not what to say,  
His face assumed a milder shade,  
Like midnight melting into day.

“ Poor wayward, artless, aimless thing,  
Where art thou going, canst thou tell ? ”

The Spirit said,—“ Is it thy will  
To run with open eyne to hell ?

“ I am the guardian of this glen,  
And 'tis my sovereign joy to see  
The wicked man run on in sin,  
Rank, ruthless, gaunt, and greedilye ;

“ But still to guard the virtuous heart  
From paths of danger and of woe,  
Shall be my earnest, dearest part :  
Then tell me, dame, where dost thou go ?”

“ I go to meet mine ain dear love,  
True happiness with him to seek,—  
The comeliest and kindest youth  
That ever kiss'd a maiden's cheek.”

The Spirit shook his silver hair,  
That stream'd like sunbeam through the rain ;  
But there was pity in his eyne,  
Though mingled with a mild disdain.

He whipp'd the maid up in his arms  
As I would lift a trivial toy—  
Quod he, “ The upshot thou shalt see  
Of this most pure and virtuous joy !”

He took two strides, he took but two,  
Although ane mile it seem'd to be,  
And shew'd the maid her own true love,  
With maiden weeping at his knee ;

And, oh ! that maiden's heart was sore,  
For still with tears she wet his feet ;  
But then he mock'd and jeer'd the more,  
With threats, and language most unmeet.

She cried, " Oh, dear and cruel youth,  
Think of the love you vow'd to me,  
And all the joys that we have proved,  
Beneath the bield of birken tree !

" Since never maid hath loved like me,  
Leave me not to the world's sharp scorn ;  
By your dear hand I'll rather die  
Than live forsaken and forlorn !"

" As thou hast said so shalt thou dree,"  
Said this most cursed and cruel hind ;  
" For I must meet ane May this night,  
Whom I love best of womankind ;

" So I'll let forth thy wicked blood,  
And neither daunt, nor rue the deed,  
For thou art lost to grace and good,  
And ruin'd beyond all remede."

She open'd up her snowy breast,  
And aye the tear blinded her ee ;  
Now take, now take mine harmless life,  
All guiltless but for loving thee !"

Then he took out a deadly blade,  
And drew it from its bloody sheath,

Then laid his hand upon her eyne,  
To blind them from the stroke of death.

Then, straight to pierce her broken heart,  
He raised his ruthless hand on high ;  
But Marjory utter'd shriek so loud,  
It made the monster start and fly.

" Now, maiden," said the mighty Shade,  
" Thou see'st what dangers waited thee ;  
Thou see'st what snares for thee were laid,  
All underneath the greenwood tree.

" Yet straight on ruin wouldst thou run !  
What think'st thou of thy lover meek,—  
The comeliest and the kindest youth  
That ever kiss'd a maiden's cheek ?"

Then sore, sore did poor Marjory weep,  
And cried, " This world's a world of woe,  
A place of sin, of snare, and gin ;  
Alas ! what shall poor woman do ?"

" Let woman trust in Heaven high,  
And be all ventures rash abjured ;  
And never trust herself with man,  
Till of his virtue well assured."

The Spirit turn'd him round about,  
And up the glen he strode amain,  
Quhill his white hair along the heaven  
Stream'd like the comet's fiery train.

High as the eagle's morning flight,  
And swift as is his cloudy way,  
He bore that maiden through the night,  
Enswathed in wonder and dismay ;

And he flang her in the Dominie's bed,—  
Ane good soft bed as bed could be !  
And when the Dominie he came home,  
Ane richt astounded man was he.

Quod he, “ My dear sweet Marjorye,  
My best beloved and dawted dame,  
You are welcome to my bed and board,  
And this brave house to be thine hame :

“ But not till we in holy church  
Be bound, never to loose again ;  
And then I will love you as my life,  
And long as life and breath remain.”

Then the Dominie took her to holy church,  
And wed her with a gowden ring ;  
And he was that day a joyful man,  
And happier nor a crowned king.

And more unsmirchit happiness  
Ne'er to an earthly pair was given ;  
And all the days they spent on earth,  
They spent in thankfulness to Heaven.

Now, maidens dear, in greenwood shaw,  
Ere you make trystes with flattering men,

Think of the sights poor Marjory saw,  
And the GREAT SPIRIT OF THE GLEN.

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## THE MISER'S WARNING.

THERE was a Carle, right worldly wise,  
Wha died without remede,  
Yet fought his way to Paradise  
After that he was dead.  
And the first soul that he met there  
Was of a maiden, mild and fair,  
Wha once had fallen into a snare,  
Whilk led to evil deed.

“ Oh, Mrs Madam !” cried John Græme,  
“ I wonder mightilye  
How leddy of such evil fame  
Gat into this countrie !  
If such as you get footing here,  
Then auld John Græme hath cause to fear  
He hath the wrong sow by the ear,  
And sore dismay'd is he.

“ Is this a place of blessedness,  
Or is it a place of woe,  
Or is it a place of middle space,  
That lies between the two ?



For there's a mildness in your mien,  
And blitheness in your bright blue eyne,  
Whilk certes sennil should be seen,  
Where wicked dames do go."

"Oho, John Græme! are you but there?  
Did you ne'er hear of this,  
That everilk place where spirits fare  
To them is place of bliss?  
That men and women, by God's might,  
Were framed with spirits beaming bright,  
Stepping from darkness into light,  
Though sunk in sin's abyss?

"A thousand years, or thousands ten,  
Not reckon'd once can be;  
The immortal spirit rises on  
To all eternitie;  
It rises on, or more or less,  
In knowledge and in happiness,  
Progressing still to purer bliss,  
That end can never see."

John shook his head, and primm'd his mou,  
And claw'd his lug amain,  
And says, "Fair dame, if this be true,  
How comes it men have lain  
In darkness to their spirit's frame,  
Their Maker's manage and his aim,  
Quhill lighten'd by ane sinful dame,  
When light can prove no gain?

“ Sooth, it is ane pleasant doctrine  
For wicked hearts, I trow,  
And suits the lordly libertine,  
And ladies such as you——”  
Then the fair dame, with witching wile,  
Upraised her eyne, withouten guile,  
Flung back her locks, and smiled a smile,  
And says, “ How judgest thou ?

“ Is it for sauntering, sordid sot,  
A hypocritic craven,  
Say who is wicked, and who is not,  
And widdershin with Heaven ?  
Do you not know in heart full well,  
That if there is a burning hell,  
You do deserve the place yoursell,  
As well as any leeving ?

“ You judge like men, and judge amiss,  
Of simple maiden's crime,  
But through temptations fathomless,  
You cannot see a styme.  
Through dark and hidden snares of sin,  
And warnings of the soul within,  
The eyne of mortal may not win,  
Within the bounds of time.

“ But would you know what brought me here,  
To this calm world of thought,  
It was the sad and silent tear,  
That sweet repentance brought ;

Of all the things on earth that be  
Whilk God and angels love to see,  
It is the heart's deep agony  
For souls so dearly bought.

“ 'Tis that which brings the heavenly bliss  
Down like the morning dew,  
On lost sheep of the wilderness,  
Its longings to renew,  
Till the poor lamb that went astray  
In vice's wild and witless way,  
Is led, as by an heavenly ray,  
The light of life to view.

“ And let me tell you, auld John Græme,  
Though here you seem to be,  
You have through darkness, flood, and flame,  
A weary weird to dree,  
Unless you do, at God's command,  
Repent of all your sins off hand,  
Whilk in your hateful native land  
Have grievous been to see.

“ A greater sinner was not born  
In dale of Fair Scotland :  
You know you stole Jock Laidlaw's corn,  
And broke his heart and hand.  
And though men knew you were forsworn,  
Yet, when his family fell forlorn,  
You treated their complaint with scorn,  
And broke them from the land.

“ Oh fie, John Græme! you sordid slave!

It sets you weel to crack;

You cheating, lying, scurvy knave,

Your heart is raven black!

Instead of a progressive pace,

In virtue, knowledge, and in grace,

Thou art lagging everilk day and space,

And fearfully gone back.

“ And there's a thralldom biding thee,

Thine heart cannot conceive,

Worried a thousand years to be,

Without the least reprieve.

Time was—time is—but will not be,

For, when I pass from warning thee,

An angel, with thy death's decree,

The yetts of heaven shall leave.”

“ Alake!” says John, “ it grieves me sore.

Short mercy I shall find;

I thought I had been dead before,

But how I cannot mind.

Much to repentance I incline,

And I could pray, and I could whine:

But to give back what now is mine,

To that I shall not bind.”

Then John knelt down in humble way

Upon the sward of Heaven,

And pray'd as loud as man could pray,

That he might be forgiven.

" John !" cried his wife, who lay awake,  
" What horrid din is this you make?  
Get up, old braying brock, and take  
Some breath to end this stevin."

" Whisht, wife !" says John, " for I am  
And praying on the sky.  
What's this? I know my soul is fled,  
Or very soon must fly ;  
For there is an angel on the way ;  
How long he takes, I cannot say ;  
But or to-morrow, or to-day,  
Poor old John Græme must die ;

" And, wife, we must repent for life,  
And all men's goods restore."  
" The fiend be there, then !" quod the v  
" Though they were ten times more.  
'Tis good to keep the grip one hath,  
Either for life, or yet for death.  
Repent and pray while you have breath,  
And all your sins give o'er ;

" And take your chance, like many a sh  
And many a better man."  
John rose, and swore he would restore ;  
And syne begoud to bann  
All wicked wives, of bad intent,  
Who would not let their men repent,  
Without their froward cursed consent,  
That hell might them trepan.

John look'd at all his ewes and kye,—  
Oh ! they were fair to see,  
His gold he counted three times bye ;  
The tear blinded his ee :  
But still he swore he would restore,  
And blamed the wife, and wept full sore,  
Counting his treasure o'er and o'er,  
And graening grievouslye.

They yermitt and flaitte a summer's day,  
Of what was to be done,  
And just as spread the gloaming gray,  
Behind the setting sun,  
The angel with the warrant came ;  
John felt his vitals in a flame,  
Ghastly he stared upon his dame,  
But language he had none.

He gave a shiver, and but one,  
And still his gold he eyed ;  
He pointed to it—gave a groan—  
And as he lived he died.  
The slave of that o'erpowering vice,  
That dead'ning, craving AVARICE,  
That turns the human heart to ice,  
Unblest, unsatisfied.

This carle was hated while he lived,  
Unwept, when he was gone,  
But where he went, or how received,  
To me was not made known.

But on this truth I can recline,  
That he's where mercy's rays combine,—  
In better hands nor his or mine,  
Which men will not disown.

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## THE ORIGIN OF THE FAIRIES.

I HAVE heard a wondrous old relation,  
How the Fairies first came to our nation ;  
A tale of glamour, and yet of glee,  
Of fervour, of love, and of mysterye.  
I do not vouch for its certain truth,  
But I know I believed it in my youth ;  
And envied much the enchanted Knight,  
Who enjoy'd such beauty and pure delight.  
I will tell it now, and interlard it  
With thoughts with which I still regard it,  
And feelings with which first I heard it.

The Knight of Dumblane is a hunting gone,  
With his hey! and his ho! and hallo!  
And he met a merry maid alone,  
In the light green and the yellow.  
That maiden's eyes were the pearls of dew,  
And her cheek the moss-rose opening new;  
Her smile was the sun blink on the brae,  
When the shower is past, and the cloud away.  
And then her form was so light and fair,  
That it seem'd to lean on the ambient air;

So very blithesome and so boon,  
That the Knight was afraid it would fade too soon ;  
Mount on the ether from human ken,  
Or melt away in the breeze of the glen.

His frame thrill'd to the very core  
When he saw that beauty stand him before,  
With the gleam of joy on her brow so meek,  
And the dimple on her damask cheek.  
And then so ripe was her honey lip,  
That the wild bee, lingering, long'd to sip ;  
And the merle came by with an eye of guile,  
For he hover'd and lighted down a while  
On the snowy veil in which she was dress'd,  
To pick the strawberries from her breast.  
O was there aught below the heaven  
I would not have done, or would not have given,  
To have been the Knight of Dumblane that day !—  
But 'twas better for me that I was away.

The Knight came nigh, and essay'd to speak,  
But the glamour of love was on his cheek ;  
And a single word he could not say,  
For his tongue in thirsty silence lay.  
But he doff'd his cap from his manly brow,  
And he bow'd as low as a knight could bow,  
Then stood with his velvet cap in hand,  
As waiting for the maiden's command.

Sure this was witless as could have been,  
I cannot conceive what the Knight could mean  
For, had I been there, in right or wrong,  
*As sure as I sing you this song,*



I would, as the most due respect,  
Have twined my arms around her neck,  
And, sure as man e'er woo'd a maid,  
Have row'd her in my shepherd plaid,  
And, in token of my high regard,  
Have set her down on the flowery sward ;  
And if some discourse had not begun,  
Either in quarrel or in fun,  
Take never a shepherd's word again,  
And count my skill in wooing vain ;  
All this I would have done with speed—  
But for ever would have rued the deed !

Oh, never was knight so far o'ercome  
As he who now stood blushing and dumb  
Before this maid of the moorland brake,  
With the cherub eye and the angel make.  
At first no higher his glance was thrown  
Than the flowery heath that her foot stood on ;  
When by degrees it embraced her toe,  
But over the ankle durst not go ;  
Till at length he stammer'd out modestly  
“ Pray—madam—have you—any commands fi  
me ?”

Shame fa' the Knight ! I do declare  
I have no patience with him to bear ;  
For I would have look'd, as a man should do,  
From the shoe tie to the glancing brow ;  
Nay, from the toe's bewitching station,  
Even to the organ of veneration.  
For what avails the loveliest face,  
Or form of the most bewitching grace,

Which on earth are made for man alone,  
If they are not to be look'd upon ?  
Yes, I would have look'd till my sight had rack'd,  
And the very organs of vision crack'd,  
And I would have sworn, as a man should swear,  
That I never saw virgin half so fair :  
This I had done, despite all pain,  
But ah ! I never had done it again !

But the maid was delighted beyond expression,  
To mark the young Knight's prepossession,  
And with a smile that might have given  
Some pangs even to a thing of heaven,  
She took so moving a position  
That set his soul in full ignition :  
One limb alone scarce press'd the ground,  
The other twined her ankle round ;  
Her lovely face was upward cast ;  
Her sunny locks waved in the blast ;  
And really she appear'd to be  
A being divine—about to flee  
Away from this world of self and sin,  
A lovelier, holier clime to win.  
No posture with that can ever compare—  
What a mercy that I was not there !

But he raised his eyes as hers withdrew,  
And of her form got one full view :  
The taper limb, and the slender waist,  
The modest mould of her virgin breast,  
The lips just opening with a smile,  
And the eye upraised to heaven the while ;

The purple tides were seen to entwine  
In a thousand veins all crystalline !  
Enough ! The sequence is too true :  
For though the Knight got but one view,  
One full, intoxicating look,  
It was more than his fond heart could brook ;  
For on the ground he fell, as dead  
As he had been shot out through the head.

Now this was rather a sad o'erthrow :  
I don't think I would have fallen so ;  
For though a lovely virgin face  
Has sometimes put me in piteous case,  
Has made me shed salt tears outright,  
And sob like the wind on a winter night,  
Nay, thrown me into a burning fever,  
Yet I never just went off altogether ;  
But I have reason without a flam,  
Thankful to be—and so I am—  
That I was spared the illusive sight  
That was seen by that enchanted Knight.

Now it seems that the maiden to fear began  
For the life of that young and comely man,  
And every art essay'd, to try  
To make him uplift his amorous eye ;  
But in reality, or in mime,  
The swoon continued a weary time.  
And better had it been if he had never  
Re-open'd his eyes, but slept for ever ;  
For when next they awoke on the light of day,  
His cheek on the maiden's bosom lay.

He felt its warmth new life impart  
And the gentle throbs of her beating heart ;  
He felt, beneath his aching head,  
The enchanting mould that had laid him dead ;  
He felt her hand his temples chafing,  
And every tenderness vouchsafing ;  
He lifted his head—he hid his face—  
And stole his cheek from that witching place ;  
Yet still he cast, though disinclined,  
A longing, lingering glance behind,  
Where he saw—but I dare not describe the view,  
For, if you are a man, it will kill you too ;  
If you are a woman, and lovely beside,  
You will turn up your nose in disdain and pride.  
If you are not, without a frown,  
You will laugh at the Knight till you fall down ;  
For true it is, when the Knight had seen  
The beauteous bed where his cheek had been,  
The blush and the smile, and the lucid vein,  
He gave one shriek, with might and main,  
Then shiver'd a space, and died again !

From that time forth, if I durst tell,  
Unto that Knight such hap befell,  
As never was own'd by mortal man,  
And never was told since tales began.  
He got his wish—it proved a dear one,  
It is an old story, and a queer one:  
But free of fear, and free of fetter,  
I'll tell it out even to the letter—  
The wilder 'tis I love it the better.

We all have heard the maxim old,  
That a tale of truth should aye be told ;  
For nothing in nature happen can,  
That may not a lesson prove to man :  
Now this is true:—Yet things we ken,  
Oft happen between the women and men.  
So wild, romantic, and precarious,  
So complicated, and contrarious ;  
So full of passion and of pain,  
They scarcely can bear to be told again.  
Then think of love 'twixt a mortal creature  
And a being of another nature !

The Knight was lost—that very morn,  
Rung the last peal of his hunting horn ;  
His comrades range the mountain reign,  
And call his name, but call in vain ;  
From his hawks and his hounds he is born  
And lost for a twelvemonth and a day ;  
And, all that time, he lived but to prove  
The new delights and the joys of love—  
His mistress, a pattern of sweetness and  
And her home a palace of splendour and  
But whether it was in the sinful clime  
That bounds Mortality and Time,  
In a land below, or a land above,  
In a bower of the moon, or the star of love  
He never could fathom or invent,  
Or the way that he came, or the way that  
But he ween'd, from his love's aerial nature  
That she barely could be a mortal creature

And every night in his ears there rung  
The accents sweet of the female tongue ;  
Light sounds of joy through the dome were ring-  
ing—

There was laughing, dancing, harping, singing  
But foot of man in the halls was none,  
Nor sound of voice but his own alone :  
While every night his beloved dame  
In new array to his chamber came ;  
And, save herself, by day or night,  
No other form ever met his sight.  
So ween'd the Knight ; but his mind was shaken,  
And, alas ! how far he was mistaken !  
For love's full overwhelming tide  
O'er the mind of man is hard to bide.  
Yet this full fraught of delirious joy,  
Without reverse and without alloy,  
I would once have liked to have essay'd ;  
But at last—how I had been dismay'd !

The times soon changed ; for, by slow decay,  
The sounds of joy were melted away  
To a tremulous strain of tender wailing  
Of sufferings for a former failing ;  
While something was sung, in a plaintive key,  
Of a most mysterious tendency,  
Of beings, who were not of the earth,  
To human creatures giving birth ;  
Of seven pure beings of purity shorn,  
Of seven babies that might be born,  
The nurslings of another clime,  
By creatures of immortal prime,

Of the mother's thrilling fears, and more  
Of the dark uncertainty before !  
The Knight then dreaded,—as well might he !—  
That things were not as things should be  
And a hearty wish rose in his mind,  
That he were at the home he left behind.  
To wish, and to have, in the charmed ring  
Of that sweet dome, was the self same thing ;  
For the Knight awaken'd, as from a dream,  
And he stood by the wild and mossy stream,  
Where first he felt the bewitching power  
Of the beauteous maid at the morning hour,  
Where he fell a victim to beauty's charms,  
And died of love in a virgin's arms !

He sought his halls and his stately bower ;  
But a solemn stillness seem'd to lower  
Around his towers and turrets high :  
His favourite hound would not come nigh,  
But kept aloof, with a murmuring growl,  
And a terror his heart could not control ;  
For he prick'd up his ears, and snuff'd the wind,  
Though he heard his master's voice behind,  
Then fled with his bristles of dread unfurl'd,  
As from a thing of another world.  
And every maiden, and every man,  
Away from their master in terror ran ;  
While his aged mother, in weeds of woe,  
Conjured him solemnly to go  
Back to his grave, and his place of rest !  
For her mind with terror was sore oppress'd.  
But there he remain'd, and once again  
Was hail'd as the true Knight of Dumblane.

But, oh ! how changed in every feature,  
And ail the vehemencies of his nature,  
As if an eagle from cliffs above  
Had been changed into a plaintive dove ;  
From a knight of courage and of glee,  
He was grown a thing of perplexitye,  
Absent and moping, puling, panting,  
A vacant gaze, and the heart awanting :  
Earth had no pleasures for his eye,  
When he thought of the joys that were gone by.  
This to some natures may be genial,  
Or, as a failing, counted venial ;  
For me, I judge the prudent way,  
Let past time have been what it may,  
Is to make the most, with thankful mind,  
Of that which still remains behind.

The Knight lived on as scarce aware,  
How long I neither know nor care,  
Till at the last, one lovely morn,  
The fairest lady that ever was born  
Came into his bower, with courtesy bland ;  
And a lovely boy was in either hand,—  
Two tiny elves, alike not less  
Than twin flowers of the wilderness.

“ Thou art my lord, my own true knight,  
Whose love was once my sole delight.  
Oh, I recall,—how can I not ?—  
That morning, never to be forgot,  
When I met thee first, with horn and hound,  
Upon the moor, to the hunting bound,



When thy steed like lightning fled away,  
And thy staghound howl'd and would not stay ;  
Thou stolest the heart that never had birth,  
The heart of a being not of this earth :  
And what is more, that heart to wring,  
The virtue of an immortal thing.  
Dost thou own these babes in the gold and green,  
The loveliest twins that the world has seen ;  
Wilt thou here acknowledge us as thine own.  
Or bear the brunt of our malison ?”

Then the Knight shed tears of joy apace  
At seeing again that lovely face ;  
And his heart with love was sore oppress'd  
As he folded the fair dame to his breast :  
“ Thou art my lady love,” said he,  
“ And I never loved another but thee !”

“ Alas, how blind are earthly eyes  
To those that are lighted by other skies,  
By other breezes, untainted by sin,  
And by other spirits that dwell within !  
Well might thy raptures of pleasures be  
Sublimed by creatures such as we ;”  
The lady said, with an eye of shame,  
When enter'd another most comely dame,  
As like to the first as she could be,  
As like as cherries on the same tree ;  
While hanging on either hand were seen  
Two lovely babies in gold and green.

“ Thou art my own true lord and love,”  
The second said, “ and thou wilt approve

This dear love-token, I changed with thee,  
When sitting in the bower upon thy knee."  
The Knight acknowledged the token rare,  
And flew to embrace his lady fair ;  
But remembrance came with a thrilling pain,  
That, instead of one lady, he now had twain,  
And instead of two babies of beauty and grace,  
There were four all looking him in the face.  
He stood like a statue, of sense bereft,—  
He look'd to the right and then to the left,  
But one from the other he could not know,  
They were both the same, and yet there were two  
While thus he stood prepared for shrift,  
In came a third—a fourth—a fifth—  
A sixth—a seventh ! All round they stand,  
And each had a baby in either hand,—  
And each had her love-tokens to display,  
Which the Knight acknowledged without delay.  
But how that maid he met on the hill,  
And loved so dearly, and loved her still,  
Had thus the powers of nature outdone,  
And multiplied into twenty and one—  
Why, that was more than he could believe,  
Than his head could frame, or his heart conceive ;  
And still he cast his eye to the door,  
Distrustful that there were not more.

His lady mother at length attended,  
And her courtesies were with wonder blended,  
To see such beauty in such array,  
Seven dames all lovely as morns of May,  
With fourteen babies in a ring,  
*And all like the children of a king ;*

And she laid on her son her quick behests  
To tell her the quality of their guests.

“ Why mother, 'tis strange as strange  
And yet it is truth I tell to thee,  
That all these dames of beauty so bright,  
Claim me for their own true lord and knight  
Nay, and I may not deny it neither,  
And all these children call me father !  
But I swear by my vows of morn and eve  
And I swear before the throne of Heaven  
That I never knew of daughter nor son,  
Nor of a love, save only one  
There is glamour abroad in moor and glen  
And enchantment in all the walks of men.

“ Why, son, it has often been told to me  
That you never could learn to multiply !  
Your bold advancement now I greet ;  
It is practice that makes the man complete  
This said, the dame, with a sullen smile,  
And a gloom upon her brow the while ;  
For she soon perceived, by dint of lore,  
That the Seven Weird Sisters stood her by  
Who had dwelt in enchanted bower sublimely  
From the ages of an early time ;  
Condemn'd for an unhallow'd love  
Endless virginity to prove,  
And endless longings for bliss to be,  
In their palace of painful luxury,  
Unless a mortal knight should fall  
In their love-snares, and wed them all.

And for all this numerous comely birth,  
She knew that her son was lost to earth,  
And perchance would be caught in enchantment's  
thrall,  
And lost to heaven—the worst of all.

“ My son,” she said, “ since so it be,  
That all this comely progeny  
Are here acknowledged to be thine,—  
Before they can be received as mine,  
I have lock'd the doors, the gates, and all,  
And here, within this stately hall,  
They shall kneel before a sacred sign,  
And be christen'd by a name divine.”

Then a shriek arose from the lovely train,—  
Was never heard such a yell of pain,—  
Till the gorgeous ceiling that glow'd o'erhead  
Was shiver'd like an autumn reed,  
And the images all prostrate lay,  
And the casements of the tower gave way,  
And the lovely train, all three by three,  
Walk'd forth in beauty and in glee ;  
While many a glance they cast behind,  
As they trode the billows of the wind ;  
For they danced as lightly through the air  
As if heaved on the gilded gossamer,  
That play'd, with a soft and silent motion,  
Like the gentlest swell that woos the ocean ;  
And many an eye beheld them fly,  
And heard this plaintive melody :

---

“ Now we are free,  
Now we are free,  
We Seven Sisters now are free,  
To fly where we long have wish'd to be ;  
And here we leave these babies of ours,  
To dwell within our shady bowers,  
And play their pranks in the moonlight dell,  
With the human beings they love so well ;  
For oh, they are babies of marvellous birth,  
They are neither of heaven nor yet of earth ;  
And whether they will live till time be done,  
Or fade away in a beam of the sun,  
Or mount on the polar heights sublime,  
And to worlds of unknown splendour climb,  
Is a mystery which no eye can pierce,  
But His, the Lord of the universe :  
But this we know,  
That above or below,  
By the doors of death they shall never go.

“ Adieu, our sweet little babies, for ever !  
Blithe be your lives, and sinful never ;  
You may play your pranks on the wicked and wild,  
But wrong not Virtue's sacred child—  
So shall your frolics be lightsome and boon,  
On the bridge of the rainbow or beam of the moon ;  
And so shall your loves in the bridal bowers  
Be sweeter still than your father's and ours ;  
And the breezes shall rock you to soft repose,  
In the lap of the lily or breast of the rose ;  
And your beauty every eve renew,  
In you bathe your forms in the fragrant dew,

That stands a heavenly crystal bell  
In the little dew-cup's lovely well ;  
Your drink be the haze on the moonlight rill,  
And your food the odour which flowers distil,  
And never let robes your forms adorn  
That are not from the web of the rainbow shorn,  
Or the purple and green that shines afar  
In the breast of the eastern harvest star ;  
    And then shall you ride  
    O'er land and o'er tide,  
O'er cloud, and o'er foam of the firmament wide,  
O'er tree and o'er torrent, o'er flood and o'er flame,  
And THE FAIRIES shall be your earthly name :  
    In joy and in glee  
    Your revels shall be,  
Till a day shall arrive that we darkly foresee ;  
But note you well when these times commence,  
And prepare for your departure hence.

“ When the psalms and the prayers are nightly heard  
From the mossy cave or the lonely sward ;  
When the hunters of men rise with the sun,  
And pursue their game till the day be done ;  
And the mountain burns have a purple stain  
With the blood of men in the moorland slain ;  
And the raven croaks in the darksome cloud,  
And the eagle yells in the heavens aloud,  
    We you command,  
    With heart and hand,  
To leave the links of Fair Scotland.  
    Away ! dismiss !  
    And seek for bliss  
In a happier, holier sphere than this !

“ Sweet babies, adieu !

And may you never rue

The mingled existence we leave to you !

There is part of virtue and part of blame,

Part of spirit and part of flame.

Part of body and passion fell,

Part of heaven and part of hell.

You are babies of beauty and babies of wonder ;

But fly from the cloud of the lightning and thun

And keep by the moonbeam or twilight gray,

For you never were made for the light of day.

Long may you amid your offspring dwell,—

Babies of beauty, kiss and farewell !”

The Knight of Dumblane, from that day forth

Never utter'd word upon the earth ;

But moved about like a spirit in pain

For certain days, then vanish'd again,

And was chosen, as my old legend says,

The patriarch King of the Scottish Fays.

With full command o'er these beings strange ;

But his human nature never would change,

Till, at the end of a thousand moons,

All deck'd with garlands and gay festoons,

He was borne away, with lament and yell,

And paid as kane to the Prince of Hell !

~~~~~  
From such unhallow'd love as this,

With all its splendour and all its bliss,

Its end of terror and its bane,

May Heaven preserve us all !—Amen.

## ALLAN OF DALE.

At the dawning of morn, on a sweet summer day,  
Young Mary of Moy went out to pray,—  
To pray, as her guileless heart befitted,  
For the pardon of sins that were never committed ;  
A grateful homage to render Heaven  
For all its gifts and favours given,—  
For a heart that dreaded the paths of sin ;  
For a soul of life and light within ;  
And a form, withal, so passing fair  
That the rays of love seem'd centring there.

Mary felt that her eye was beaming bright,  
For her bosom glow'd with a pure delight :  
As over the greenwood sward she bounded,  
A halo of sweets her form surrounded ;  
For the breezes that kiss'd her cheek grew rare,  
Her breathing perfumed the morning air ;  
And scarce did her foot, as she onward flew,  
From the fringe of the daisy wring out the dew.

She went to her bower, by the water-side,  
Which the woodbine and wild-rose canopied :  
And she knelt beneath its fragrant bough,  
And waved her locks back from her brow ;  
But just as she lifted her eye so meek,  
A hand from behind her touch'd her cheek :  
She turn'd her around, with a visage pale,  
And there stood Allan of Borlan-dale !



ALLAN.

Sweet Mary of Moy, is it so with thee?  
Have I caught thee on thy bended knee,  
Beginning thy rath orisons here,  
In the bower to the breathings of love so dear?  
Oh tell me, Mary, what this can mean!  
Hast thou such a great transgressor been?  
Is the loveliest model of mortal kind  
A thing of an erring, tainted mind,  
That thus she must kneel and heave the sigh,  
With the tear-drop dimming her azure eye?  
To whom wert thou going thy vows to pay?  
Or for what, or for whom, wert thou going to pray?

MARY.

I was going to pray in the name divine  
Of Him that died for me and for mine;  
I was going to pray for them and me,  
And haply, Allan, for thine and thee.  
And now I have answer'd as well as I may  
Your questions thus put in so strange a way:  
But I deem it behaviour most unmeet,  
Thus to follow a maid to her lone retreat,  
To hear her her heart of its sins unload,  
And all the secrets 'twixt her and her God.  
For shame, that my kindred should hear such a tale  
Of the gallant young Allan of Borlan-dale!

ALLAN.

Sweet Mary of Moy, I must be plain:  
I have told you once, and tell you again,  
Though in love I am deeper than woman can be,  
*You must either part with your faith or me.*

MARY.

What ! part with my faith ? You may as well demand,  
That I should part with my own right hand !  
Than part with that faith I would sooner incline  
To part with my heart from its mortal shrine.

ALLAN.

Ah ! Mary ! dear Mary ! how can you thus frown,  
And propose to part with what's not your own ?  
For that heart now is mine : and you must, my sweet  
dove,  
Renounce that same faith on the altar of Love.

Then Mary's sweet voice took its sharpest key,  
And rose somewhat higher than maiden's should be ;  
But ere the vehement sentence was said,  
A gentle hand on her lips was laid,  
And a voice, to her that was ever dear,  
Thus whisper'd softly in her ear :—

LADY OF MOY.

Hush, Mary ! dear Mary ! what madness is this ?  
These dreams of the morning, my darling dismiss :  
Awake from this torpor of slumber so deep ;  
You are raving and clamouring through your sleep :  
Up, up, and array you in scarlet and blue .  
For Allan of Dale is come here to woo.

MARY.

Tell Allan of Dale straight home to hie,  
And court Helen Kay, or his darling of Skye :  
This positive message deliver from me,  
For I list not his heretic face to see.

LADY.

My Mary! dear Mary! what am I to deem  
Arouse you, my love; you are still in your d  
Your lover's views of things divine  
May differ in some degree from thine;  
But I think he is one who will not pother  
Betwixt the one faith and the other.

MARY.

That is worse and worse: for my lover m  
Attach'd to my faith as well as to me.  
We must kneel at one beloved shrine,  
And the mode of his worship must be mine.  
For why should a wedded pair devout,  
By different paths seek heaven out?  
Or in that dwelling happy be,  
Who of the road could never agree?  
O mother! this day, without all fail,  
I had given my hand to young Borlan-dale;  
But I've had such a hint from the throne on  
Or some good angel hovering nigh,  
That tongue of mortal should never prevail  
On me to be bride to this Allan of Dale,  
Unless he sign over a bond, for me  
In the path of religion his guide to be.

Young Allan to all his companions was kn  
As a sceptic of bold and most dissolute tone  
Who jeer'd at the cross, at the altar, and pr  
And made our most holy communions his je  
Yet Mary of this had of knowledge no glear  
Till warn'd of her danger that morn in her

red his Mary for lands and for gold,  
auty of feature, and beauty of mould,  
ll as a cold-hearted sceptic could love  
held no belief in the blessings above ;  
hene'er of his faith or his soul she spoke,  
swer'd her always with jeer and with joke.

rowns of the maiden, and sighs of the lover,  
poutings and nay-says, were all gotten over ;  
othing remain'd but the schedule-deed gerent,  
onds and the forms of the final agreement,—  
g called a contract, that long-galling fetter !  
parents love dearly, and lawyers love better.  
was set down, at the maiden's indictment,  
art, to devotion a powerful incitement,  
er lover should forfeit, without diminution,  
fortune redoubled, (a sore retribution !)  
his words or his actions should jostle  
the creed she revered of the holy apostle.  
arms were severe, but resource there was none ;  
sign'd, seal'd, and swore, and the bridal went on.  
was it for Mary ! for scarce were got over  
oneymoon joys, ere her profligate lover  
his old gibes, when in frolicsome mood,  
that the Christian holds sacred and good :  
ill, lest the terms might be proven in law,  
ond and the forfeiture kept him in awe ;  
caused him to ponder, and often think of it,—  
hing that he jeer'd at, and where lay the profit ?  
last, though by men it will scarce be believed,  
r had not pass'd, ere he daily perceived  
uths of the Gospel rise bright and more bright,  
he *dawning* of day o'er the darkness of night,

Or the sun of eternity rising to save  
From the thralldom of death, and the gloom of the grave.

Then Mary's fond heart was with gratitude moved,  
To her God, for the peace of the man that she loved ;  
And her mild face would glow with the radiance of beauty,  
As he urged her along on her Christian duty ;  
For of the two, his soul throughout  
Grew the most sincere and the most devout.

Then their life pass'd on like an autumn day,  
That rises with red portentous ray,  
Threatening its pathway to deform  
With the wasting flood and the rolling storm ;  
But, long ere the arch of the day is won,  
A halo of promise is round the sun,  
And the settled sky, though all serene,  
Is ray'd with the dark and the bright between ;  
With the ruddy glow and the streamer wan,  
Like the evil and good in the life of man ;  
And, at last, when it sinks on the cradle of day,  
More holy and mild is its sapphire ray.  
Oh! why should blind mortals e'er turn into mirth  
The strange intercourse betwixt heaven and earth,  
Or deem that their Maker cannot impart,  
By a thousand ways, to the human heart,  
In shadows portentous of what is to be,  
His warnings, His will, and His final decree?

This tale is a fact—I pledge for 't in token,  
The troth of a poet, which may not be broken ;  
And, had it not been for this dream of the morn,  
This vision of prayer, intrusion, and scorn,

Which Heaven at the last hour thus deign'd to deliver,  
The peace of the twain had been ruin'd for ever.

---

## THE DESCENT OF LOVE.

AN youthful Love! thy votarist,  
Though oft he turns into a jest  
Thy freaks or foibles, yet will join  
In humble worship at thy shrine,  
And eulogise thee morn and even  
As the best, earliest gift of Heaven.

Thou blushing thing of pain and bliss!  
Child of a happier sphere than this!  
Wert thou a nursling of the sky,  
Foster'd in Paradise on high,  
To thrill the radiant breasts above?  
No—ange's feel not youthful love;  
Theirs is a flame we cannot know,  
A holy ardour free from wo;  
But ours a joy, supreme, intense,  
A short and splendid recompense  
For an esteem, unbroke, unmoved,  
Which man immortal might have proved.  
Art thou not then, O virtuous love,  
The dearest gift of Heaven above?

Blest be thy native home on earth,  
The place that own'd thy mystic birth.  
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When far beneath the golden morn  
Was thy seraphic being born.  
Where Euphrates and Tigris' strands  
Join 'mid the sweet Assyrian lands ;  
Where that great river rolling blue  
Mirror'd the earliest flowers that grew,  
When scarce had bud begun to blow,  
Or blossom deck'd the world below,  
Then was the shade of tiny tree  
The bed of thy nativity.

While the first pair of human frame  
Lay weeping their immortal blame,  
By deep remorse and sorrow tost,  
For all their gifts and glory lost ;  
Even then, when grief was at the full,  
And no redress their pains to lull,  
Thy cherub form from heaven descended,  
In all the rays of beauty blended,  
And their repentant breasts above  
Thou wov'st the holy ties of love ;  
While by a mystic art unnamed  
Of thy fair self the bonds were framed,  
And ne'er did heavenly art entwine  
A wreath so cheering and divine.

Full soon the pair thy presence own'd ;  
They found their hearts to nature bound  
By tie, not proved, nor understood,  
A bond of kindred and of blood,  
And in delight without alloy  
Their hearts rejoiced in nature's joy.

The river flow'd more silvery bright,  
The flowers were glowing with delight,  
The young twin roses had begun  
Their homage to the morning sun,  
In odours breathed from bosoms meek,  
And made obeisance cheek to cheek.

In a blest world they seem'd to move,  
A world of pathos and of love,  
Where all was deck'd in glories new ;  
The sunbeam kiss'd the morning dew :  
The fields were robed in deeper green ;  
The blue of heaven was more serene ;  
The birds sang sweeter in the grove,  
Hailing the natal morn of love ;  
Not even from Eden's sacred tree  
Was ever pour'd such melody.

But of all ecstasies refined  
The greatest still remain'd behind,  
A new delight thrill'd and subdued,  
When eye met eye with love imbued ;  
When he with raptures scarce terrene  
First turn'd his view on nature's queen,  
On that dear form whose soften'd charms  
Besought protection in his arms ;  
Whose every look, and smile, and sigh,  
Bespoke a chasten'd courtesy.  
He saw her eye of deeper blue,  
Her cheek grown rosier in its hue,  
While her fair bosom's gentle swell  
With hallow'd heavings rose and fell ;



Then was thy heavenly being blest  
With earthly home of holy rest,  
And woman's breast was form'd to be  
The tabernacle meet for thee !

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